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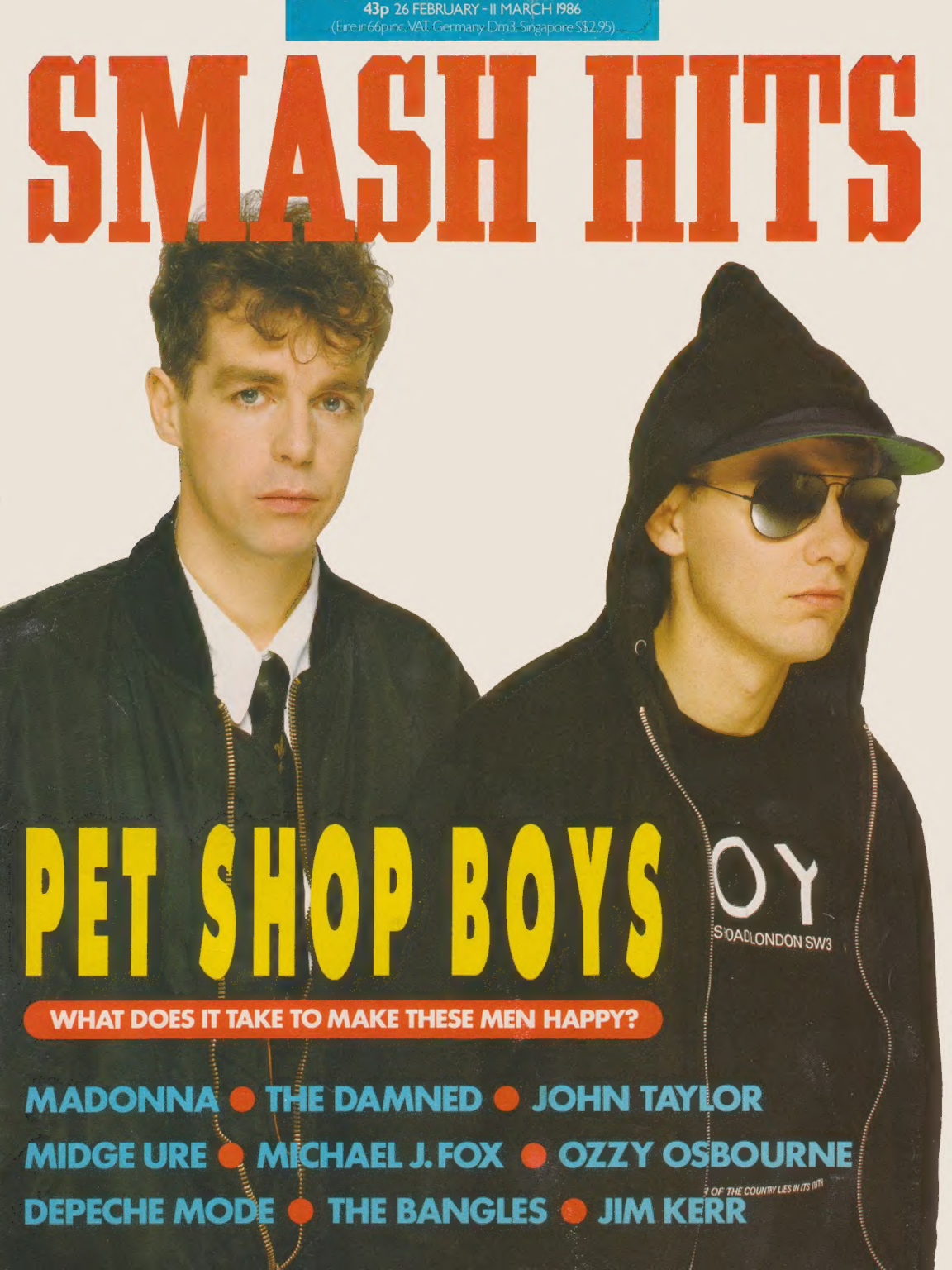
SMASH HITS



PET SHOP BOYS

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE THESE MEN HAPPY?

MADONNA • THE DAMNED • JOHN TAYLOR
MIDGE URE • MICHAEL J. FOX • OZZY OSBOURNE
DEPECHE MODE • THE BANGLES • JIM KERR

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VOLUME 8 NUMBER 5 **COVER: PET SHOP BOYS BY BRIAN ARIS**

JIM KERR

bitz

Birthdays

FEBRUARY

27th Steve "frightmask" **Harley** (35)
Adrian Smith of Iron Maiden (29)
Paul Quinn (27)
Paul Humphreys of OMD (26)

MARCH

1st Mike Read ("34")
Nik Kershaw (28)
4th Red "fright bonce" **Stripe** of the Flying Pickets (30)
Shakin' Stevens (38)
8th Mel Galley of Whitesnake (38)
Cheryl Baker of Bucks Fizz (32)
Clive Burr of Iron Maiden (29)
Gary Numan (26)
Ped of Frankie Goes To Hollywood (26)
9th Martin Fry of ABC (28)
10th Prince "yore a toff Prince Edward " **Edward (22)**
11th Bruce Watsonofbigcountry (25)
Mike Percy of Dead Or Alive (25)

Mmmmmm mmmmmmm, *love* the Kair dearies. This lot are called **Gene Loves Jezebel**, and although it's a bit of a pretentious name they released a *really* good single a while back called "Desire" which was an immense. . . well, flop actually. Now they're going out on tour – details in *Concerts* (page 34).

Foreign Skies: A Wham! Movie

That's the official title of the "long-awaited" **Wham!** in China film which, after about a million years faffing around, is finally ready. A couple of weeks ago George, Andrew and about 150 friends and relatives turned up at a small London cinema to see the first-ever screening, and were "thrilled with it" (which is just as well, seeing as the two hour documentary has cost them a reported £5 million to make). The reason it's taken so long is that the original director Lindsay Anderson (something of a "cult" figure, respected for prickly avant-garde British films like *If. . .* and *O Lucky Man*) walked out during the editing stage, apparently because George kept sticking his oar in.

Anderson says he was keen to get a flavour of Chinese culture across, whereas it seems Wham! had other ideas: "Wham!'s people weren't very interested in the documentary content. All they wanted was a music video made from the performance footage at the end of my film, and this man demolished the whole film to get at that stuff," he commented at the time, adding that he'd "never have anything to do with an infantile pop group like Wham! again." After he left, the film was re-edited, and now consists mainly of hefty chunks of concert footage, backstage shenannigans and sight-seeing trips. Hopefully the football match featuring Andrew togged up in full kit and posing away like nobody's business has been salvaged, even if George's bits, complete with Kevin Keegan hairstyle (due to heavy condensation in the air, and *not* heated Carmen rollers as reported elsewhere) haven't.

The film's due out on general release in the summer; also expected are a possible George Michael solo single by Easter and a new Wham! LP in the Autumn – ver lads are supposed to start recording in Abba's Swedish Polar Studios next month.

● While *Bitz* is on the subject of George'n'thingy, take a look at these two (below). They're *supposed* to be Wham!'s "doubles" – *very* convincing, don't you think? Quite frankly *Bitz*'s cat looks more like Wham! and *Bitz* hasn't even *got* a cat.

Photos: Syndication International

СИГ СИГ★СПУТНИК

(Russian for Sigue Sigue Sputnik, fact fans)

● **Sigue "Sigue" Sputnik:** are they really, as they claim, "the fifth generation of rock'n'roll"? Who knows? *Bitz* doesn't really care, *actuellement*, and reckons their single "Love Missile F1–11" is OK but sounds like "I Feel Love" speeded up and with the tune missing (not surprising, since it's produced by the same bloke, Giorgio Moroder). The vid's pretty good though – sort of a cross between *Mad Max* and *A Clockwork Orange*, the v. influential '70s film which got banned because it "incited violence" and which Ver Sigues seem to have based rather a lot of their image on. They've even called their tour "A Clockwork Sputnik" (geddit?), just in case anyone misses the point (details in *Concerts*). Anyway, to get to le point: time for a competitionette. . .

The prize: 20 sets of four 12" singles (same record, but the sleeves are written in different languages), a 7" single, and a Sigue Sigue T-shirt. The first five people get a copy of the VHS vid (including a special two minute "promotional trailer" concept thingie chucked in for good measure.) **The question:** The dodgy looking geezer above was the first man in space. But is he (a) Yuri Andropov (b) Yuri Gagarin (c) Some Russian bloke (d) Reg Varney? Answers on the back of a Cruise missile to **Smash Hits Sputniks Are Spiky Competitionette, 52–55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF** – to get here before the end of the world. Bang!

The Greeks have got a lot to answer for. Demis Roussos*, for instance. Or squid (urgh!). Moussaka. Pythagoras' Theorem. Squidgy pink fish eggs i.e. taramasalata (bleeeeaaaauuuuurrgh!!!). And *now* they've foisted Nana Mouskouri on us, too. Not content with the success of "Only Love", the short-sighted Greek so-called "songbird" (ha!) is releasing yet another single, a version of Abba's snoozesome "I Have A Dream". *And* she's dooing a concert at the London Palladium (details in *Concerts*, page 34).
Boo! Avanti!

Our Demis Roussos expert (T.R. Hibbert) writes: During the late '60s, *Aphrodite's Child* became the most famous Greek pop combo ever, which isn't saying very much actually, but following the release of their spooked-out devilly double-concept-LP called "Beast 666" or something, their bass player got so overweight that he couldn't play his instrument any more and so he had to go "solo". Hence Demis Roussos! He made so much swag by singing in a squeaky voice whilst standing in a tent that he was able to buy solid gold taps and surround himself with "amazin" "ladies". When last heard of, he was *seenging* his "classic" "Happy To Be On An Island In The Sun" aboard a hi-jacked airliner whilst observing a strict high-fibre diet. . .

WANT TO BE A POP STAR?

● Remember **JoBoxers**? A very long time ago (i.e. May 1983) they were on the cover of *Smash Hits*; but now – sniff – they are no more. A couple of weeks ago they finally "admitted defeat to the abominable pressures of the music business mafia" and split up. As a result, ex-members Sean McClusky, Chris Bostock and Rob Marche (drums, bass and guitar – fact fans) are looking for a singer/lyricist to join their new group. So if you think you're completely brilliant, hugely talented, the right person for the group etc. etc. send a tape of yourself (singing, of course) and a recent photo to: **Starcrest Management, 163 Caledonian Road, London N1.** Who knows – they might choose you. Then again they might not. Life, eh?

D E F J A

is the name of a record label. It's also the loudest, brashest, most "trendy" and talked-about kind of hip-hop music around at the moment. *Bitz* spins around on its head and finds out all about it. . .

Def Jam Records was founded about two years ago by Rick Rubin, a bearded young hippie-looking sort of person (who reckons AC/DC are one of the greatest groups ever) and his mate, Russell "Rush" Simmons. The label's two major groups are The Beastie Boys and L. L. Cool J, both of whom specialise in a minimal kind of rapping music based around drum machines, with the occasional blast of heavy metal chucked in for good measure.

The Beastie Boys – yum!

The Beastie Boys are a trio of brattish teenagers who swear on stage, throw food out of hotel room windows (charming!), read dirty magazines and were booed off stage every night when they supported Madonna on her last American tour. Their single "She's On It" sounds like Mötley Crüe crossed with Kurtis Blow and a little bit of Benny Hill type humour – i.e. the lyrics are rather sexist and *not* particularly subtle.

L.L. Cool J, meanwhile, is 17 years old and *ruthlessly* confident. He wears tons of gold medallions and a floppy Kangol "bush hat" (currently *de rigeur* for serious breakers), and his favourite rapping topic is his huge JVC ghetto-blaster (or "beat box"). In fact, one of his loyal side-kicks is always close at hand at concerts to make sure no-one pinches this beloved machine, and he's even named his record after it – his single's called "I Can't Live Without My Radio", his LP simply "Radio".

Both L.L. Cool J and The Beasties (along with The Fat Boys, Kurtis Blow and Run DMC) star in a new hip-hop movie called *Krush Groove*, which is based loosely around the story of Russell Simmons and his management company, Rush Productions. But although the film has been a huge success in America, it doesn't look as if it will be released over here – probably something to do with its

L.L. Cool J (centre) and "loyal side-kicks".

" S T A R S T Y L

● **Number. . .er. . .lost count, actually.** Well, it's not a star and it's not stylish either, but who cares? It's certainly *weird*, and that's good enough for *Bitz*. This so-called "hair sculpture" (left) is the work of "environmental" (*emphasis on the "mental" if you ask* moi – *Ed.*) artist **Terry Niedzialek,** and the stuff on the model's head includes cement (yum!), polystyrene, twigs, spray paint, electrical components and – blimey! – a *working* television. Apparently it's all meant to give "wearable expression to your sense of alienation in the post-industrial world". Give you a ruddy big headache, more like. . .

David Hinds with. . .

. . .and without hat

● **Number lost-count-plus-one.** Good grief! This man (left) has got a yukka plant on his head. He's **David Hinds,** singer with reggae group Steel Pulse, and he hasn't cut his hair for seven years, as his Rastafarian beliefs forbid it. "It's about 18 inches high now," he explains proudly, and adds that since the sight of it can literally stop the traffic, he keeps his hat on a lot – "I don't like to cause car accidents!" Apparently people give him hats all the time, "although for every ten I'm given only one ever fits – I've only got three I can actually wear." He washes his "tree" regularly in the bath (*without* taking it down), and lets it dry naturally, "which takes a very long time in this sunless country." It's not supported by anything and he reckons it's going to topple over soon: "It's getting very heavy and starting to lean. . ." But wouldn't he contempla-

M

specialist nature, not to mention the amount of swearing and "colourful" language used in the dialogue. Still, a soundtrack LP *is* available. It's called "Krush Groove: Music From The Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (Warner Brothers), and as well as featuring all the groups mentioned, it also includes songs by Debbie Harry, Chaka Khan and Sheila E.

If you fancy hearing all this stuff *without* spending a squilli-pounds down at Ye Olde Pop Inne'n'Listen Record Bar, try answering this question: Which "new wave" group was Debbie Harry once in: a) The Belle Stars b) The Fat Boys c) Bananarama d) Blondie or e) The Scoffer Bostock Doo Dah Band? First 25 correct answers out of the useless cardboard box get a Beastie Boys 12" *and* a "Krush Groove" LP. Get them to **Smash Hits So-Called "Trendy" Beat Box Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF** by March 11.

He's back. *Back*! Who? Why, The New Romantic What Time Forgot, of course, namely one **Steven Strange.** The last *Bitz* heard of him he was playing "elephant polo" in India, whatever that might be, but in between jogging around on giant wrinkly grey beasties he's also managed to find time to put a new group together. They're called Strange Cruise (v. dodgy name if you think about it) and their first single, "Rebel Blue Rocker" is just out on EMI Records.

bitz

Paul Weller's very own record label, Respond Records, has officially stopped operating. Since it started in 1981, groups signed to the label have included **The Questions, Big Sound Authority, A Craze** and **The Main T Posse;** however the only person left these days is **Tracey Young,** who must be feeling a bit lonely by now. Apparently she'll be "signing to a major label shortly."

FREE SIMPLY RED STUFF

Record or cassette, which is better? Well, cassettes are really easy to carry around, *but* they come in horrid little plastic cases which always get lost, and then the bits of brown tape peeping out get all tangled up, and it's *really* boring having to rewind them all the time. (Not to mention the fact that, if you think about it, the whole "concept" of having music contained on a weeny little strip of tape is very, very spooky and "uncanny" *indeed*.)

Records, on the other hand, are a bit clumsy and get horribly scratched, but they do have better covers, look more impressive on the shelf, and you can always bung them on tape anyway (if you don't mind being arrested and thrown in jail for a million years for illegal taping). It's a tough decision and no mistake, but *Bitz* has come up with a solution: the patent **Simply Red** Ezee-Solve Best Of Both Worlds Competition, incorporating a copy of their new single "Jericho" and the "Picture Book" LP in both record *and* cassette form. There's an album-sized carrier bag, a dinky little cassette wallet and best of all, a customised carrying case with room for 30 cassettes. *Bitz* has got 20 of these sets to give away, so here's a question: What's French for "red"? Not v. hard, is it? Answers on the back of something red to **Smash Hits Simply Red Ezee-Solve Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF** to get here by March 11.

E

having even a little, teeny *weeny* bit chopped off? "No! *Never*. The barber, he is my number two enemy." So who's number one? "My number one enemy? That is Babylon. . ."

● **Interesting theological pop fact:** "Babylon" is the Rastafarian term meaning, roughly, decadent Western civilization; which explains why Steel Pulse's new LP, just out on WEA Records, is called "Babylon The Bandit". The group are going out on tour, too – details in *Concerts*.

Yum! What's for dinner today, mum? This, in case you can't make it out, is Morten **"Horten"** Harket **of famed Nordic beat combo A-ha with his head in a dustbin. Why? Too much goats' milk yoghurt, no doubt.**

Candid camera: Michelle Ampomah

Hey, 'maaaazin, we're called **The Cherry Bombz,** right, and we've really, like, paid our dues. Two of us hail from Finland and used to be in Hanoi Rocks, drummer Terry Chimes is filed under "ex-Generation X and Clash" and the foxy lady with not very many clothes on was culled from Toto Coelo. Our vinyl debut is a 12" EP called "Hot Girls In Love" which is simply, like, '*maaaaaaaaa*zin, and we're going to be delivering a really tight set on the *Tube* on February 28. Touch base then, OK . . . ?

Art is good. So is this picture (below). So are **The Go-Betweens** (the Aussie group in this good arty picture). They've got a single out called "Spring Rain". That's good too. Goodbye. (*Shut up – Ed.*)

ODE TO A TREE

By Sir William "Yore A Toff" Shakespeare

Oh Tree
Why do you cost such a lot of money,
Tree?
***Smash Hits* is made of thee,**
Tree
Which is why from the next issue it's going to cost
Another two pee,
Tree (you complete bastard)
Which isn't that much real-ee,
Tree,
But you're still a complete bastard anyway.

Little Welsh "songbird" **Aled Jones** has just released an LP – it's called "Where E're You Walk", Mmmmmmmm and it's reviewed in *Albums*. Bleeeaauugh . . .

compet

THE PRIME MOVERS

Telekinesis (i.e. moving objects with the power of thought) – fact or fiction? Belouis Some believes in it, and now there's a Californian group – **The Prime Movers**. "The name's taken from an episode of *The Twilight Zone* (ancient American fiction series currently being re-run on Channel 4) called *The Prime Mover*," drawls vocalist Joe Ramsey down the *Bitz* spook-line. "It was all about a guy who had telekinetic powers, and could move things with his mind. The story was real creepy, and the name had kind of a heavy meaning, so we used it. . ." There are also, *Bitz* ventures, a few creepy things about The Prime Movers' excellent first single, "On The Trail". Why, for instance, are there four people on the record, but only three in the group? "We brought in another singer, just as an experiment – it didn't really work, so now we're back down to three." And why does Joe give himself the mysterious title of "Severs" Ramsey on the sleeve? "Severs is my father's middle name, but he really hates it, so I used it as a joke." Well, doesn't Joe think "On The Trail" sounds *uncannily* similar to Scottish sproutlets Simple Minds? "I can't see it, myself. I take it as a compliment though, because I really like their stuff." Other "stuff" he likes includes The Stranglers, Echo & The Bunnymen and The Comsat Angels – pretty unusual tastes, *Bitz* suggests, for a man from Pasadena, home town of ultra-heavy metal groups like W.A.S.P. and Van Halen (who he went to school with). "I've always liked British music," he explains. "British people are just really in touch with music. I grew up with The Beatles, you see, and that was what made me want to play guitar in the first place." But can he play his guitar by telekinesis, *Bitz* wonders? "Well, I do believe things like that are possible, yeah. I've got this book, an almanac of strange occurrences, and I've read a lot about telekinesis – it's really interesting. I can't actually do it myself, though. . !"

■ The Prime Movers – left to right, Terry Hudson, Joe "Severs" Ramsey and Carl Lundin – attempt to turn the page by telekinesis

i t i o n

● Why, oh why oh why, oh readers, is this thing called "life" so *tricky*? It's the so-called "simple", everyday things that always fox *Bitz*. Things like morning tea. How often have we fumbled around amidst the kitchen jumble searching for a mug and ended up pouring said tea into a sieve instead? *Most* unsuitable for drinking purposes. But it doesn't matter anyway because there's no milk due to the fact that when you were writing a note for the milkman last night saying "Two Pints Today Please Milkie" you couldn't find a biro and had to use a clothes brush instead and even if the milkman *had* been able to read the note and *had* left you two pints you wouldn't *dare* go out the front door to collect them because if the door accidentally slammed behind you, you'd be locked out due to the fact that you've been using the cat as a key-ring and the cat's run away from home. . . Day-to-day living? – it's enough to make your head spin. And just *think*, if only things were properly labelled most of these leetle headaches would simply disappear! After all, a mug is a *mug*, so it should jolly well *say* so. John Lydon agrees: that's why he's gone all "generic"* and called his single "Single", his album "Album" etc. And look at all these other **P.I.L.** items he's produced to make everyone's life go more smoothly. Yus! You could win this *entire collection* of generic things by answering this:

A mug is a mug but 'mug' has *three other* meanings. Name two.

Answers on a thing to **Smash Hits Competition Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF.** First correct answer out of the thing on March 11 wins everything in the picture. Next two get Can containing Mug, Key-ring, Biro, Label, Badge plus Single & Album. Next 22 get Single & Album. Good*bye*.

● Martin Luther King

"King Holiday" is the name of the latest charity record. Dedicated to the memory of the black American civil rights leader Martin Luther King (who was assassinated in 1965), it celebrates the fact that his birthday – January 20 – has just been declared an annual national holiday in the U.S. The group is called King Dream Chorus & Holiday Crew, which is actually a collection of young black "artistes" including **Whitney Houston, El Debarge, Lisa Lisa And Full Force, Grandmaster Melle Mel, The Fat Boys** and loads of others (there are one squilli-names on the back of the cover). It's the "brain child" of **Kurtis Blow** and was apparently financed by **Prince**, who flew the performers from all over America to meet up and record the single and make the vid. The single's out on March 7, and all proceeds will go to The Martin Luther King Centre For Non-Violent Social Change, in Atlanta, Georgia.

F A N C L U B S

● First, two addresses which have changed:
THE WORLD OF MICHAEL JACKSON,
PO Box 1804, Encino, California 91426-1804, U.S.A.
THE WATERBOYS
3 Monmouth Place, Monmouth Road, London W2.

● And here are two addresses which haven't changed:
THE DAMNED
Flashman's Society, PO Box 19, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 0TW.
OZZY OSBOURNE
c/o Winterland, 37 Soho Square, London W1V 5DG.

● Rock "oldsters" **ELO** (that's Electric Light Orchestra to you, matey) have crawled out of their mothballs to do their first live concert in three years. Appearing alongside them will be lots of. . . zzzzzzz. . . oh, sorry. Seem to have nodded off there. Um, where were we? Oh yeah, lots of other "famous" people from Birmingham (e.g Roy Wood and the Moody Blues), and the tickets cost about a million pounds each. Still, it's all in aid of charity – details in *Concerts*.

Meet **Brilliant**. You've probably met them before, ackchewlee, seeing as they had a rather tunesome version of James "grandfather of punk" Brown's "It's A Man's Man's Man's World" out quite recently, but since *then* they've gone all post-apocalyptic and *Mad Max*-ish *(Hasn't everyone? – Ed.)*. Their new single's called "Love Is War" (yeah, right) and the *Bitz* nuclear bunker is fair chocker with copies of them just waiting to be distributed to the needy and the poor. So here's a question: what do you use to measure radioactivity? Is it a) a canary in a cage b) a radio activity-o-meter c) a geiger counter d) a clockwork orange? Answers on the back of an atom to **Smash Hits Nuclear Holocaust Competition, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF** to get here quite soon. First 25 out of the fall-out shelter get a 12" and 7" single and a groovy little postcard thingette.

Sweater. S.M.L.XL. £10.99. Trousers. Waist 28-36". £16.99. Shirt from a range.

IMAGES CHANGE

avanti

Avanti: (Italian) Hurry Up, Faster, Ahead.
Avanti: A new collection for fast dressers.
Avanti: Don't get left behind.

C&A

Where value is always in fashion

THE DAMNED

They were the first punk group ever to make a record and the first punk group to split up. Then they got back together again. Then Captain Sensible, their bass guitarist, had a solo number one record and left. Then. . .*nothing*. Till now. They've just had their first proper big hit single and, as Vici MacDonald discovers, have earned enough money to buy a Sherman tank, start a family and have a video installed in the family tomb. . .

ROMAN JUGG

Roman Jugg has just given birth. Or, to be precise, his wife has. He's just come back from the hospital, and he's still beaming. "It's a boy. Our first child. He's got big hands... he's either going to be a road sweeper or a guitarist." Roman was there at the birth. "That experience will *never* be beaten. It must be the most brilliant thing that can happen to anyone. Top that? No way!" He didn't video the event though, as so many "enlightened" couples do nowadays. "I think that's a bit sick, really." He's called the young lad Jake... Jake Jugg.

Hmmm. Weird name, Jugg. Did Roman get it because he, erm, looks a bit like a jug? Roman becomes distinctly upset at the suggestion. "It's my real name... ask the rest of the group. Honest! It is. My mum and dad are Yugoslavs, so it's pronounced 'Yoog' really."

Despite his exotic name, Roman was born and brought up near Caerphilly in South Wales. "My parents moved there after the war because that's where the work was." After leaving school (where he was "very lazy"), he had spells as a cab driver and supervising in a factory.

It was around this time that punk reared its spotty old head, and Roman soon became involved. "Me and Bryn were in a group right from the very start. It was difficult in South Wales, though... there's nowhere to play, and there's no interest. It's still the same now, which is a shame." After five years of struggling in various groups, he joined The Damned in 1981. "They had this young whizz kid who was a brilliant keyboard player, but his mum wouldn't let him go on tour with them. So they called me instead and asked me to do that one tour, and they haven't been able to get rid of me since!"

These days he seems very much the "muso" of the group, and hints that he has rather a large hand in writing most of The Damned's songs. "It varies, though. It's more of a joint effort now. Before, we all used to have our own little projects but on the last album we collaborated more." He explains that, no matter who writes a song, they split all the credits evenly. "I might write a song, but what makes it a Damned song is the way Bryn plays bass, Ratty plays drums, and Dave sings it. It's a bit unfair if you've got a group promoting a song and then one guy cops all the money for it, just because he wrote it."

So, what about the rest of the group then... how would he describe them? "Well, Rat is a conniving English git I've got to say that, because last time we did an interview in *Smash Hits* he called me a conniving Welsh git. Dave's pretty gruesome, I suppose. Bryn I'd describe as fat. And me? Contented..."

RAT SCABIES

In 1975 Chris Miller contracted a horrible itchy skin condition called scabies, ever since then he's been known as Rat Scabies. The name was invented by Mick Jones (ex-Clash and now of Big Audio Dynamite). Rat explains: "We were rehearsing in this really seedy place that actually had rats in it. And this big rat just happened to scuttle along at the very moment I was telling them I had scabies. Do I regret it? No... it's only a name."

At the time he was in a group called London SS with Mick Jones, Tony James (ex-Generation X, now in Sigue "Sigue" Sputnik) and Brian James (ex-Damned, now in Lords Of The New Church). "I don't think Mick and Tony wanted me very much, because I had long hair and probably flared trousers, too. But Brian thought I was the man for the job so we left and set up The Damned. Why did we call ourselves *that*? Because we felt we *were* damned. It wasn't anything to do with cheap Hammer horror films. I deplore the way that tag gets put on us."

Rat seems to deplore quite a lot of things, his age is "irrelevant", *Top Of The Pops* is a "farce" and "like a Tupperware party" (which doesn't stop him appearing on it), and a simple question about whether or not he's married seems to reduce him to fury. "You interview Rat Scabies from The Damned, you *don't* ask Chris Miller about his private life!" he shouts. Does he see the two as being separate, then? "Yes! I bloody well do. When I'm not poncing around in a group my life's my own." Is there anything he *will* talk about, then? "Well, I'll talk to you about Russia if you like." So Rat talks about Russia.

"It's really interesting," he says, calming down. "My parents know some of the Russian education people... they come over here on cultural exchanges. The last time they were over my parents gave them a copy of "The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole" to take back to. The next thing we knew it was like a best seller in Russia!" And the Russians took some Damned records back with them too. "So now they're bopping to us in Moscow and Leningrad!"

But given the choice of living anywhere in the world, he reckons he'd choose Cornwall. "I could live on the edge of a cliff and watch the waves break." So is he philosophical? "I suppose I am a bit, really..." And how would he sum himself up? "Very *disturbed*," he replies sarcastically (though it's a bit difficult to tell with Rat). "But then what's normal? I'm *told* there's normality, but I don't think it's Richard Briers on television. I don't think it's *Coronation Street*. I've always wondered what normal people are and what they do... I suppose they just sit at home in detached houses in suburbia watching *The Good Life* or something."

BRYN MERRICK

Bryn, like Roman, comes from Wales. "A *boring* little town called Barry - the only thing it's known for is having the biggest steam engine graveyard in the world." He joined The Damned three and a half years ago, when Roman recommended him.

Before that, he'd tried joining the Navy... Barry is a dock town, and lots of his family were at sea. The Navy weren't too keen on him, though, mainly because he'd managed to pick up a criminal record. "When I was 16 I couldn't stop nicking people's cars, you see. I had nine years conditional discharge and a suspended sentence by the time I applied to the Navy, so they wouldn't let me in!" His only other... work experience" was two-and-a-half days spent in a butcher's shop. "I left on a Wednesday because it was a half day anyway."

He regards his past antics with amusement now. "When I look back at what I did when I was a kid, it was more like a comedy act. I've always been a clown." It's clear that the rest of the group regard him as a bit of a "clown" too, in fact they're often teasing him about various ludicrous drunken escapades he's been involved in. Bryn, good-natured as ever, takes their jests in good part. "In this group, *everybody* gets teased. If anyone can find a flaw in anyone else they all pick on it..."

The main cause of today's merriment is Bryn's tale of how he once got locked in the loo, with only his Swiss Army penknife for company. "There was this old wooden door, see, and it got jammed at the bottom. There was no handle on the inside, so I jammed the saw bit of my pen knife in the keyhole instead. I was just trying to get a grip on it when the bloody thing snapped. It was a black one, as well... you don't often see them, you can only get red ones normally." Apparently all The Damned have got Swiss Army penknives. "We went to Geneva, see, and what better place to get one? They're really useful in the van when you're trying to put sandwiches together. And how many times have I been somewhere and no-one's got a bottle opener? It's really good for opening cans of cat food, too... everything. Incredible."

There's one thing he wants more than a new Swiss Army penknife, though: a tank. "I've just always had this thing about owning a Sherman tank. What's wrong with that? After the 2nd World War there were loads of tanks left over, and there are still some around. Sherman tanks are best, because they're really small. I know someone in Wales who owns a scrapyard who's got one. Just before he puts the cars in the crusher he drives his Sherman tank all over them... it's for a joke. Incredible."

DAVE VANIAN

When Dave auditioned for The Damned in 1976, he had stiff competition. "It was me or Sid Vicious. Sid didn't turn up though, and I got the job." If he hadn't got the job he'd have liked to be a comic book illustrator. "I always fancied getting across to America and working as an inker on the Batman comics."

His own "Count Dracula" image isn't taken from comic books, though, but from films. "I've always dressed like this. It's linked to old movies from the '30s and '40s, really. I've always loved the medium of films." At the moment he's avidly watching the old horror flicks Channel 4 are showing on Saturday nights. "Did you see *Dracula's Daughter* the other week? I've always loved that. It's great. It might seem tame now, but in the '30s they actually had nurses in the cinema because so many people were fainting from fright."

Perhaps his love of ghoulishness has something to do with his ancestry, too: he's half Latvian on his father's side, Latvia being a creepy little East European state "a lot closer to Transylvania than Islington, let's say."

Despite all this, he's not frightened of the supernatural in fact he used to go on ghost hunts to try and *disprove* their existence. His research led him to Borley Rectory (supposedly the most haunted house in Britain), where a previous team of ghost hunters had managed to tape-record sounds of groaning and rattling chains. "We recreated the whole experiment, *exactly*, and proved there was something fishy going on," Dave remembers. "In that church there's a clock... it's been running for years, and never stopped. It was clearly audible on our tape but not on theirs at all, so it must have been tampered with."

He's even worked in a cemetery, and remains a bit of an expert on burial chambers, although he doesn't... as reported... sleep in a coffin. "Coffins aren't very comfortable... they're a bit restricting across the shoulders. Caskets are better, they're much larger. We were going to build a double casket for our house, but I haven't got round to it." Instead, he and his American wife Laurie sleep in "an extremely high bed swathed in fabric", which, like everything else in his house, is Victorian. He wants to move to a much larger place though, where he can raise a family (he's the only member of the group without kids).

In the garden he wants to build a family crypt, where the whole Vanian clan can be buried when the time comes. "I've always thought it would be a great idea to have a videotape of yourself playing inside. People would put money in to see it and it'd help pay for the upkeep of the place... And the [illegible]." Maybe it's in back

▲ROMAN JUGG ▲RAT SCABIES ▲BRYN MERRICK ▲DAVE VANIAN

CULTURE CLUB

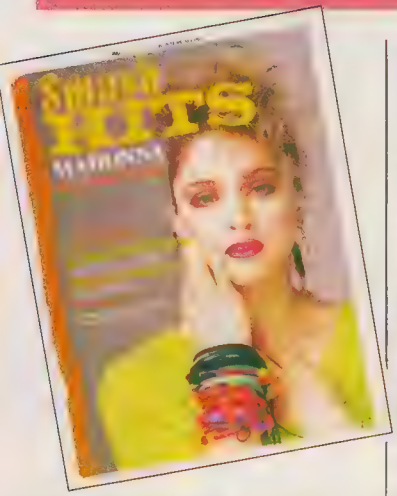
NEW SINGLE
7″ AND EXTENDED 12″ MIX
PRODUCED BY LEW HAHN AND ARIF MARDIN
OUT NEXT WEEK

VS 845

GET SMART

Get Smart has had so many letters about a certain American female pop "sensation" that we've given in and produced the first in an occasional series of "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About . . ." specials.
If there's something you're bursting to know about *your* favourite pop star, write to Get Smart, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF and we'll see what we can do.

MADONNA



Can you please tell me whether Madonna's hair is permed or just naturally curly and whether she has thick or thin hair?
Madonna fan, Leicester.
● According to Madonna's British "spokesperson": "as someone who has sat in the back of a car with her, I'd say her hair is definitely natural though it's actually more wavy than curly. I'd also say it's more thick than thin."

Please help! Is Madonna's real name Madonna Louise Ciccone OR Madonna Louise Vernon Ciccone OR Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone – or is it something completely different?
Two Madonna Fans Desperately Seeking The Truth, Norwich.
● Madonna was christened Madonna Louise Ciccone, but when she was confirmed (the reaffirmation of the Catholic faith and confirmation as a "soldier of Christ" which happens when Catholics are 12 or 13) she was allowed to choose an additional "confirmation name", and she chose Veronica (snigger). As she once explained. "If I had to change my name I'd use my confirmation name Veronica. I chose her because she wiped the face of Jesus, which I thought was really dramatic." Oooeer . . .

Can you tell me whatever happened to a song called "Ain't No Big Deal" which was intended for the "Madonna" album and where I might hear it now?
D. Walpole.
● The song – which was one of the first she ever recorded and was written by her drummer and "partner" at the time Steve Bray – was, as you say, left off the "Madonna" LP. It was put instead onto an American "sampler" compilation album called "Killer Bees" – a mishmash of songs by people on the same record label as her. It's also – as you can see on the discography over the page – on the B-side of the Japanese "Dress You Up" 12" and is, we can reveal, really rather good. Unfortunately the Japanese 12" costs about £10 and the American compilation is no longer available but Madonna's British record company say that "we may well release it in some form in the future".

When you featured Madonna's picture with the "Into The Groove" songwords (13 July – 13 August issue) her eyes were bright blue. This also appears on the cover of the latest album. Yet in about a billion other pictures they are brown!!! Is it my eyesight or *hers*?
A very confused person, Sussex.
● Well, it's certainly not *your* eyesight – a quick check confirms that her eyes are different in some photos. Our photography expert David "Scoffer" Bostock suggests it may be that the photos were "touched up" (in other words, they had changes painted on after they were taken – quite a common practice, especially in America). The real colour – judging by the photos which *Smash Hits* took when she was on the cover at the beginning of 1984 and which definitely *weren't* fiddled about with – is greeny-bluey-browny. Sort of.

Please could you tell me why Madonna wears so many crosses and why she laughs at the beginning of "Angel"?
A Wham! Fan, Barnstaple.
● Yes, why *does* she wear so many crosses? Her "spokesperson" (the one who sat in the back of a car with her) puts it down to her Catholic upbringing and to the fact that she was christened Madonna (meaning "mother", but in particular, "the mother of Christ", the Virgin Mary). Though perhaps you should bear in mind that, according to Talking Heads' Tina Weymouth, Madonna has said in American interviews that "I love crucifixes because there's a naked man on them" As for that rather sweet little chuckle at the beginning of "Angel", her spokesperson simply puts it down to "charm".

In the first scene of *Desperately Seeking Susan*, who is the bloke who Madonna takes a polaroid of in bed who later gets hurled out of the window to his death?
Tom, West Kensington.
● He's an American called Richard Hell and, though he now makes his living as an actor, he is perhaps most famous as "the man who *really* invented punk rock" when he was the first person to wander round wearing a ripped t-shirt held together with safety pins in 1974 while in a band called the Neon Boys (who became very trendy band, Television). Later on, when he came to England with his band Richard Hell And the Voidoids, he claimed he'd been swizzled because the Sex Pistols had stolen all his ideas and given him no credit.

Did you know that in *Desperately Seeking Susan* Madonna is listening to the Fixx's "One Thing Leads To Another" on her headphones when somebody rings her up?
Shirl, Kendal.
● No.

Has Madonna achieved the most top five hits in a row by the same person in one calendar year (1985)?
Madonna's Belly Button, Norfolk
● Indeed she has. No-one has ever even come close to her *eight* top five hits last year, and no female singer has ever before sold 3 million singles in a year. Fancy that!

Please could you tell me whether it's true that Madonna has a son as there is a rumour that she does. Also it said on the radio the other day that she's getting divorced. Are these rumours true?
Jane Benson, Sheffield
● As far as we know, insists Madonna's spokesperson, 'there's absolutely no truth *at all* in these rumours. All these stories are getting completely out of hand – if anything like this was true I'm sure *we'd* know.

I think it's horrible when they make fun of Madonna's belly button on *Spitting Image* – if you ask me her belly button is rather nice. Can you find out if Madonna minds?
Rob Smith, Lincoln
● Madonna seems to be maintaining a dignified silence about such matters but she has long been on record as being extremely proud of her navel. 'I have the most perfect belly button,' she once boasted. 'There's no fluff in it. If 100 belly buttons were lined up against the wall I could definitely pick out which one's mine.'

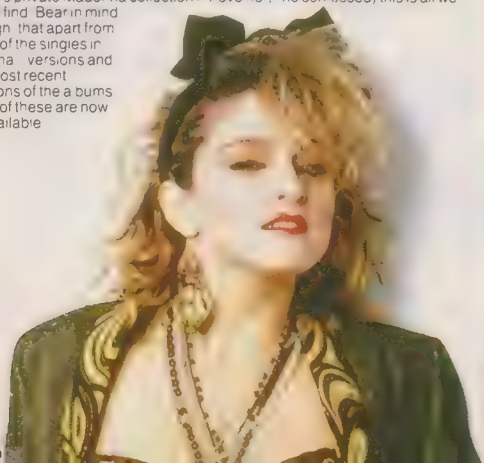
Spot the difference

Me and my "friend" have been arguing about Madonna's beauty spot. Is it real? My friend says it isn't because sometimes in pictures it's on one side and sometimes it's on the other so he thinks it's a fake stick-on one. Please set the books straight.
Emma Peter, Tollerton
● Yes, it *is* real. The reason it appears on different sides in photos is that sometimes magazines print the photos in reverse, either because it looks better on the page or simply by mistake. In real life the spot is on Madonna's right upper lip (in other words on the left of the picture as you look at it).

Can you give me any information about the green silk jacket with a cosmic pyramid design on the back that Madonna and Rosanna Arquette wore in *Desperately Seeking Susan*?
Madonna fan, Gloucester
● But of course. The jacket was especially made for the film by the 'product on designer' and after the film's release in America you could buy replicas for around $50 (£35), though sadly they were never on sale over here. And, incidentally, the design on the back – a pyramid with an eye on top – is actually taken from the back of an American dollar bill.

What is Madonna up to?
Bobbi and Shona, Worcester
● At the moment she's in the UK filming sequences with 'hubby' Sean Penn for the film *Shanghai Surprise*, though the finished film probably won't be seen over here until Christmas at the earliest. She has, however, nearly finished another LP which should be out in the summer.

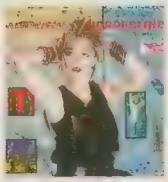
Please could you give me a list of all the singles and albums that Madonna has made on her own as I would like to complete my collection.
Madonna fan, Wiltshire
● *All* of them? We'd even once we'd been to Madonna's record company scoured nearly every shop in London *and* pinched a few things from Stephen Duffy's private Madonna collection (I *love* her, he confessed) this is all we could find. Bear in mind though that apart from most of the singles in 'normal' versions and the most recent versions of the albums most of these are now unavailable.



EVERY SINGLE MADONNA

S I N G

"Everybody"/"Everybody (dub)" 12" – [illegible]

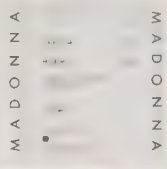

"Borderline"/"Lucky Star" (U.S. Remix) 7" and 12" – released Ma[illegible] 84, reached No. 58.

"Into The Groove"/"Shoo-Bee-Doo" 7" and 12" – ("Everybody" 12" only) released July 85, reached No. [illegible]

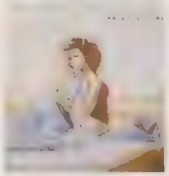
"Lucky Star"/"I Know It" 7" and 12" – released Sept 83, reached No. 17.

"Like A Virgin"/"Stay" 7" and 12" – released Nov 84, reached No. 3.

"Into The Groove"/"Shoo-Bee-Doo" picture disc.



"Lucky Star"/"Holiday" promotional 12" – never available [illegible]


"Material Girl"/"Pretender" 7" and 12" – released Feb 85, reached No. 3.

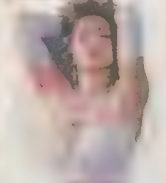
"Holiday"/"Think Of Me" 7" and 12" – released July 85, reached No. 2.

"Holiday"/"Think Of Me" 7" and 12" – released Jan 84, reached No. [illegible]

"Crazy For You" 7" only, B-side by Sammy Hagar, released Apr 85, reached No. [illegible]

"Holiday"/"Think Of Me" 12" picture disc.

"Lucky Star"/"I Know It" 7" and 12" – released March 84, reached No. 14.


"Crazy For You" picture disc.

"Angel"/"Burning Up" 7" and 12" – released Sept 85, reached No. [illegible]

A L B U

"Madonna" – [illegible]

"Like A Virgin" – contains Material Girl, Dress You Up, Angel, Like A Virgin and Stay.

"Like A Virgin" – same as above LP with 'Into The Groove' on side 2.

RECORD IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE (Well *almost* . . .)

L E S

"Angel"/"Burning Up" picture disc.

"Dress You Up" poster sleeve 12".

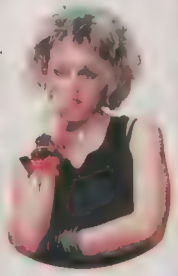
"Gambler" 7" and 12" (b-side by Black'n'Blue), - released Sept '85 reached

"Dress You Up" Christmas tree ornament picture disc.

"Gambler" 7" with poster sleeve.

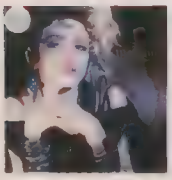
"Borderline"/"Physical Attraction" 7" and 12" - released Jan '86 reached No 2 No 4

"Dress You Up"/"I Know It" 7" and 12" - released Dec '85 reached No 5



"Borderline"/"Physical Attraction" picture disc.

M S



"The First Album" Madonna album with new title and colour sleeve

"Like A Virgin" picture disc Same as second version of "Like A Virgin" LP

I M P O R T S

Imports are foreign versions of records which have been put on sale in this country – usually because they contain different or unobtainable songs, or because they have different sleeves. (And sometimes because the artist sings the song in a foreign language, though all of these Madonna records are in English.) They're quite hard to find – the best places to try are chain stores like HMV, Virgin and Our Price in big cities – and, be warned, they're rather pricey. Cheapest of this lot are the Japanese 7" (about £4) and the American and European 12" (£5-6). The interview picture disc costs £9, the Japanese 12" £10 and the Japanese mini-LP – quite £12.

"Everybody"/"Everybody" (club) American 12" - Madonna's very first release

"Angel" (extended dance remix)/"Into The Groove" American 12".

"Burning Up"/"Physical Attraction" American 12".

"Lucky Star"/"I Know It" German 12".

"Borderline"/"Lucky Star" American 12's - both the US remixes

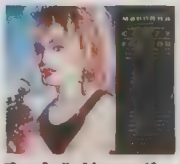
"Holiday"/"Lucky Star" German 12".

"Like A Virgin" (extended dance mix)/"Stay" American 12".

Madonna Limited Edition (2,500) interview picture disc.

"Material Girl" (extended dance remix)/"Pretender" American 12".

"Holiday"/"Lucky Star" Spanish 12".



"Crazy For You" American 12 (b-side tracks by Sammy Hagar and Journey).

"Dress You Up" Japanese 12" also includes "Ain't No Big Deal" (see previous page)

"Holiday"/"I Know It" Japanese 7".

"Borderline"/"Think Of Me" Japanese 7".

"Like A Virgin"/"Stay" Japanese 7".

"Angel"/"Angel" (dance mix/edit) Japanese 7".

"Dress You Up"/"Shoo-Bee-Doo" Japanese 7".

"Material Girl"/"Into The Groove"/"Angel" (extended dance remix) Japanese 12".

"Like A Virgin & Other Big Hits" (dance mix) LP - "Like A Virgin" (extended dance remix), "Lucky Star" and "Borderline" 12" (extended dance remix) 45's 2" Single (special)

DEPECHE MODE

STRIPPED

Come with me into the trees
We'll lay on the grass
And let the hours pass

Take my hand
Come back to the land
Let's get away just for one day

Chorus
Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone
Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone

Metropolis has nothing on this
You're breathing in fumes
I taste when we kiss

Take my hand come back to the land
Where everything's ours for a few hours

Repeat chorus

Let me hear you make decisions
Without your television
Let me hear you speaking just for me

Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone
(Let me hear you speaking) (Just for me)
Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone
(Let me hear you crying) (Just for me)
Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone
(Let me hear you speaking) (Just for me)
Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone
(Let me hear you crying) (Just for me)
Let me see you
Stripped down to the bone
(Let me hear you speaking) (Just for me)

Words and music by M L Gore
Reproduced by permission Grabbing Hands/Sonet
On Mute Records

MATT BIANCO

JUST CAN'T STAND IT

Help me beat this losing streak
I'm running round here like a dog on heat
I've got it bad I know it's sad

Chorus
Every time I'm round you baby
I just can't stand it any more
And I just can't stand it any more

You play me up you cut me down
I must be blind when you fool me
It's bittersweet this love you keep

Repeat chorus

A love/hate emotion
I can't hide as I let each day tick away
And I fight and you hurt me more
Each time I try to say goodbye

Repeat above

I can't believe that I do the things that I do for you
I've seen your tricks a hundred times yeah
It's bittersweet just a losing streak

Repeat chorus

I tell you baby
I just can't stand it any more
And I just can't stand it any more
Every time that I'm round you baby
And I just can't stand it any more
Oh baby
And I just can't stand it any more

Words and music by Mark Reilly/Mark Fisher
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Smooth Dog Music/Copyright Control
On WEA Records

KISS
THE SINGLE

As the night moves in
Love takes on a new meaning
If you were here
You would know what I mean to say
The circumstance leaves me only waiting
For the chance I only want to love you more
More

Can't you understand it
Girl you know how much I care
It's not the way I planned it no
If you could only know my feelings
You would know how much I do believe
If you were here tonight
By my side
If you were with me now

When the lights go out
I cannot pretend
This bed's too big oh
For me to be in alone oh

Can't you understand it
Girl you know how much I care
It's not the way I planned it no no no no no
If you could only know my feelings
You would know how much I do believe
If you were here tonight (all night)
By my side

If you were with me now

Every night alone I just wait here anticipating
For the day I won't feel this pain baby
Please don't keep me waiting
'Cause to me
If you were here tonight
Oh girl
Be by my side
If you were with me now

Words and music by M. Moir
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On Tabu Records

Mai Tai

FEMALE INTUITION
NEW 7″ & 12″ SINGLE

7″ SINGLE NOW AVAILABLE WITH IMMENSE VALUE CONTINUOUS PLAY CASSETTE

"FREE"

TRACKS INCLUDE: FEMALE INTUITION, HISTORY (SUPERIOR 'MELTDOWN' MIX) & BODY AND SOUL

VS 844

HOT MELT

VS 844-12

RSVP

Want someone to write to? Send in a postcard with a few words about yourself so people can get in touch. All cards to RSVP, Smash Hits, 52-55 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PF. And please enclose a phone number where we can contact you. This won't be published

● **Are there any boys out there (17+) into The Cult, U2, The Alarm, nightclubbing and dressing way out?** If so then please write to me, Anna, at 38 Bakers Way, Bryncethin, Nr Bridgend, Mid Glam, S Wales

● **I need somebody like you!** I'm 16, female and into Bryan Adams Corey Hart, Midge Ure and so on Please write to: Rusaka Komazsu, 31-33 Himuto-cho 2-chome, Takazsuki – shi Osaka 569, Japan

● **Hi! I'm a 14 year old lad who wants to write to some females.** I'm into most funk and electro such as Whodini, Level 42, Cameo and Paul Hardcastle, so get writing to Sime, 30 Fairbanks Walk, Swynnerton, Stone, Staffs ST15 0PF

● **If you're 16+, into U2, Go West, UB40, Ultravox, Springsteen, FGTH, TFF, DD, Bryan Adams, A-ha** and trillions of other groups and are also a member of ATHHMBFAONT (allergic to homework, heavy metal, Bucks Fizz and other naff things), then you can write to me. Julie O'Brien, 44 Miles Hill Terrace, Leeds LS7 2E3

● **My name is Emma Clarke and I would like a female penpal from Britain aged 10-12 years.** My interests are swimming Wham! and Guides Please write to: 43 Danethorpe Vale, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 3ER

● **I'm a 17 year old Gary Numan fan looking for anybody (any age or sex) who's mad about the following:** Gary Numan, The Cure, Japan, Tik & Tok, Bauhaus, Echo & The Bunnymen, black clothes and weird multi-coloured hair-dos Paul, "Junction Motel", Bolton Road, Bradford BD2 4JX

● **I'm Jonathan, I'm 16 and I'm looking for a girl of the same age to write to.** I'm into U2, Go West, The Cult and most other pop groups so get writing now to J Martin, 34 St Michaels Close, Penkridge, Nr Stafford

● **Hi! I'm an 11 year old girl and I'd like to hear from any boys or girls around my age.** I like swimming, reading and George Michael. Please write to Emma Gascoyne, 11b George Street, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbys S43 1HG

● **Calling all Gary Numan fans.** I'm also mad about Depeche Mode, Frankie and Dead Or Alive If you're interested please write to: Trisha, "Wallcroft", Rake Lane, Little Stanney, Nr Chester CH2 4HS

● **Calling all fans of Level 42, Scritti Politti, Feargal Sharkey and A-ha.** We are two wonderful 15 year old girls called Tracy and Alison We're looking for two good looking male penpals aged 15-17 who like the above groups but hate heavy metal and punks All boys scribble a letter (and send a pic) to 46 Grange Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs ST14 7DW.

● **My name is Sarah and I am 17 years old.** I'm into The Style Council, The Specials and all good 60s music I also like athletics and going out with my friends I'd love to hear from anyone, boys or girls, so get writing to: Sarah Thomas, 9 The Hollow King Street, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire TF4 2AE

● **Are you lonely? Are you bored? Then you need me!** I'm a 13 year old boy and I love fun pop music (except Wham!), all sports and I also like writing, so put pen to paper and drop me a line Brian Beckett, 72 Folie John Way, Woodlands Park, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3XB

● **I'm desparately seeking a penpal (female) aged 12-14.** I'm 13 years old and madly in love with Madonna If you look anything like her then you're my type I also like any other music and my other interest is playing sport I'll reply to all letters so write to me (with a pic if poss): Jason Thomas 8 Lon-y-Bedw, Coed Mawr, Bangor, Gwynedd, North Wales

● **Hi! I'm a 13 year old female into Paul Young, Nik Kershaw and A-ha.** If there are any good looking blokes out there aged 13–16 who are interested, please write to Rebecca Oxley, 99 Bempton Land, Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO16 5HA (Please send a photo if possible)

● **My name's Mark and my friend's name is Simon.** We like Madonna, Simple Minds TFF and most current pop music We're looking for two good looking girls aged 14–16 to write to Drop us a line at 84 York Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 6LL

● **I am a girl aged 16 and would like to write to any boys or girls who like Hanoi Rocks, Mötley Crüe and The Scorpions.** My hobbies also include dancing, reading and volley ball Write to me, Katja Suomalainen at: Pussitie 3, 15880 Soramaki, Finland

● **Hello! I'm a 17 year old girl and a great David Bowie fan.** I'd like to write to penfriends all over the world, but especially from Japan It doesn't matter about your age, sex or interests Please write to Paivi Tolsa, Keskuskatu 23020 48100 Kotka, Finland

● **I'm a 17 year old boy who is into most music on the pop scene, especially U2, Marillion, Eurythmics and Strawberry Switchblade.** If you're 15–20 years old and female write to me (with a picture if possible) Graham Hastie, 21 Keppenburn Avenue, Fairlie, Ayrshire, Scotland KA29 0BA

● **My name's Phil and I'm a Billy Idol lookalike.** I'm a rebel with a yell and would like to hear from anyone 16+ into Bauhaus, The Damned, The Cult, Billy Idol and black So all you way-out, mad people get writing to Phil Robin Hood Caravan Site, Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria (Please send a photo if possible)

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QUIZ

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING HAVE IN COMMON?

1: a) Nick Rhodes b) Dennis Healey c) Linda McCartney d) David Sylvian
2: a) Shakin' Stevens b) Bonnie Tyler c) Aled Jones d) Mike Peters of The Alarm
3: a) Nick Rhodes b) Whitney Houston c) Grover Washington d) John Denver
4: a) Sheena Easton b) Sheila E c) The Bangles d) Chaka Khan
5: a) George Michael b) Duran Duran c) Des O'Connor

6:

7:

9:

10:

TRUE OR FALSE?

1: Gary Kemp once played at a concert in Australia with a Coco Pops packet on his head
2: John Lennon once appeared in a film being sick
3: Mags of A-ha's brother has a pet spider
4: Larry Mullen of U2's brother has a pet scorpion
5: Nik Kershaw was once kidnapped in Australia by a dingo
6: Paul Young was once sick on stage in the back of a speaker cabinet
7: A bloke out of Squeeze was once sick in a matchbox
8: Lloyd Cole was once sick outside his headmaster's office
9: Larry Mullen of U2 was once sick in a teapot
10: D.C. Lee has a cat named after a sea-side resort
11: Holly Johnson once had a venus fly-trap but it died
12: Alison Moyet once had a half-a-dozen chickens but they died
13: A-ha once had a pet mouse
14: Gary Kemp was once sick in a Coco Pops packet
15: Dusty Hill of ZZ Top once shot himself in the foot with a pistol
16: Mick Jagger once released 10,000 butterflies at a concert and they all died
17: Howard Jones has a teeny weeny Sinclair C5 motor car
18: Larry Mullen of U2 once shot himself in the nose with a bow and arrow
19: Bono drives around in a hearse
20: Mark Unpronounceablenameof-bigcountry once played drums for Paul Daniels

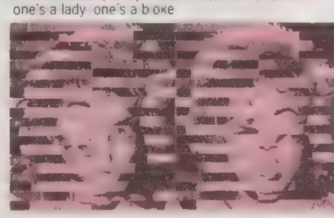
SWIZZLED UP LYRICS

The following are bits from 2 different song lyrics stuck together. Which two songs?

1 Last night me and Kate we laid in bed talking about Samantha Fox
2 Marcon plays the mamba listen to my yo-yo in the garden
3 If there's a bustle in your hedge-row don't cover me in cheesecake mix
4 Meanwhile in Cuckoo Land please let me lay your tile
5 One inna Greenland one inna Iceland from Lake Geneva to the Finland station
6 Here comes Johnny singing pull my shirt off
7 How can I save my little boy from pheremones on this perfume uniform
8 And now ladies and gentlemen here's Eva Peron
9 They put a hot wire to my head beneath the opera house
10 Na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na na

WHO IS IT?

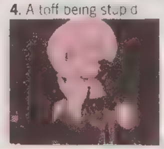
1. A swizzled up snap of two respected popsters – one's a lady one's a bloke



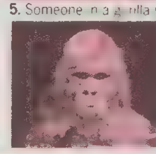
2. Someone (the bloke on the left) in a very dodgy group indeed before he rose to fame (and fell back down again)

3. A podgy geezer on the verge of international stardom

4. A toff being stupid



5. Someone in a gorilla suit



ANSWERS

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING HAVE IN COMMON? 1 They're all amateur photographers 2 They all come from Wales 3 They all have surnames that are also place names, 4 They've all recorded songs written by Prince 5 They've all had hit singles with "Careless" in the title ("Careless Whisper" "Careless Memories" "Careless Hands" 6 They're all called Max (except the girl) Max Bygraves, Max Headroom Mad Max 7 They're all called Bruce (except Robin and the girl) Bruce Forsyth Bruce Springsteen Batman a k a Bruce Wayne 8 They're all not very good drawings 9 They all begin and end with the letter A and have had Number 1 hit singles Abba A ha Aneka 10 They all have absurd made up names (except the girl who isn't Twiggy) Fish Twiggy Bono

TRUE OR FALSE? 1 False 2 True 3 True 4 False 5 False 6 True (only it wasn't *that* Paul Young it was Paul Young of Sad Cafe hawhaw) 7 True, 8 True 9 False 10 True (Margate), 11 True 12 True 13 True 14 False 15 True 16 True 17 False 18 False 19 True 20 True

SWIZZLED-UP LYRICS 1 Bruce Springsteen "My Home Town" Elton John "Wrap Her Up" 2 Jefferson Starship "We Built This City" Kate Bush "Cloudbusting" 3 Led Zeppelin Far Corporation "Stairway To Heaven" King "Torture" 4 Nik Kershaw "When A Heart Beats" Full Force "Alice Want You Just For Me" 5 Sophia George "Girlie Girlie" Pet Shop Boys "West End Girls", 6 Dire Straits "Walk Of Life" Arcadia "Election Day" 7 Sting "Russians" Marillion "Heart of Lothian" 8 Grace Jones "Slave To The Rhythm" Cameo "She's Strange" 9 P I L "Rise" Steve Harley & Sarah Brightman Phantom Of The Opera" 10 King "Alone Without You", Artists United Against Apartheid "Sun City"

WHO IS IT? 1 Bob Geldof and Annie Lennox 2 Kevin Rowland in The Killjoys 3 Simon le Bon 4 Sir William "Yore A Toff Lord Billiam" Idol 5 Grace Jones

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the bangles

● Four girls from America who think that TV is mashed potato and Prince is "a little crispy round the edges." Oh. . .

Tom Hibbert meets Vicki, Debbi, Susanna and . . . *Michael*?!

The Bangles are a quartet from Los Angeles. And they're all girls – but woe betide the bloke that points this out: "If people keep asking us those 'the role of women in rock' type questions," fumes Michael Steele (the one who plays the bass), "we're going to have to start saying 'Ask us something more interesting, puh-*lease*!' I mean, it's sooo boring – what's the difference between men making rock and *women* making rock? It's a stupid way to make a living either way . . . "

Too true, Michael (which, if I might say so, is a rather "odd" name for a woman – a bit like Princess Michael Of Kent, actually: "Well, I guess it's not as normal as 'Pam'; I changed my name legally in 1976 and, no, I won't tell you what it was before. It wasn't a horrible name or anything – I changed it for personal reasons . . . " *Most* mysterious . . .)

The Bangles formed in LA (man) in 1981. To start with, it was just the two Peterson sisters, Vicki and Debbi, and their friend Susanna Hoffs making a terrible noise in Susanna's parents' garage. They called themselves The Bangs. 18 months later, Michael had joined, another poxy group called The Bangs had threatened to sue them so the girls had become The Bang*les*, and they were starting to make records. "We're not a garage band anymore," said Vicki. "We're a living room band now . . . "

The group draw a lot of their "inspiration" from the music of the '60s: the first record Michael ever bought was "Fun Fun Fun" by The Beach Boys and they can all blather on about yesterday's "artistes" – The Byrds, The Beatles, Jefferson Airplane, The Electric Prunes, Sky Saxon etc – till the cows come home. Sky Saxon? He's this chap who used to sing in a band called The Seeds a thousand years ago and was a pop star in America for about two minutes; Michael keeps bumping into him in clubs these days and "he's definitely a little *fried*. He talks for hours and goes on and on saying things like 'God is Dog spelt backwards' and it's *true* . . . "

Another slight "oddball" in the life of The Bangles is Prince who, of course, wrote their current hit "Manic Monday": "Prince has been interested in us for a while," says Michael. Why, I wonder? "Well, he just seems fascinated with women, uh, women making music. So he submitted the song and came to watch us playing it in rehearsal. That was real nerve-wracking: we're standing there playing and he's lying right there on the couch . . . He's a little crispy round the edges . . . "

Isn't *everybody* these days, Mick? "Well, the world *is* a funny place – it just gets weirder and weirder." And so The Bangles like to escape whenever they can into a nether-world of ropey old television programmes: "We all have our favourite shows; I like *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, we're *all* into *Gidget*, and the Petersons like *The Brady Bunch* – I can't imagine why. It's very scary at the end where all those heads are looking at you. TV is mashed potato forever!" Yum!

So tell us, Mike, how did you girls sort of like end up doing something as stupid as "rock"? "I used to be a cashier at a car wash, Susanna worked in a factory making jewellery, Vicki and Debbi worked in this American art museum and Debbi even worked very briefly at a *McDonalds*. So we've all had weird jobs – and playing music may be crazy but it's a *whole* lot nicer."

● **The Bangles:** Michael (?!), Vicki, Susanna and Debbi.

manic monday

Six o'clock already I was just in the middle of a dream
I was kissing Valentino by a crystal blue Italian stream
But I can't be late 'cause then I guess I just won't get paid
These are the days when you wish your bed was already made

Chorus
It's just another manic Monday
I wish it was Sunday
'Cause that's my fun day
My I don't have to run day
It's just another manic Monday

Have to catch an early train get to be to work by nine
And if I had an aeroplane I still couldn't make it on time
'Cause it takes me so long just to figure out what I'm gonna wear
Blameit on the train but the boss is already there

Repeat chorus

All of my nights why did my lover have to pick last night to get down
(Last night last night)
Doesn't matter that I have to feed the both of us employment's down
He tells me in his bedroom voice
Come on honey let's go make some noise
Time it goes so fast (when you're having fun)

Repeat chorus

I wish it was Sunday 'cause that's my fun day
It's just another manic Monday

Words and music by Christopher
Reproduced by permission Warner Brothers Music Ltd
On CBS Records

THIS IS OZZY

. . . HE'S THE FRIENDLY, LIKEABLE 37 YEAR OLD WHO'S MARRIED WITH FIVE CHILDREN, COLLECTS WORKS OF ART AND LIKES WHAM! AND VISITING THE SEASIDE WITH HIS FAMILY. . .

"I don't enjoy going to clubs or anything like that. I'd much rather find a nice little coffee shop and chat to my wife."

"Is that all I'm ever going to be asked?" sighs Ozzy Osbourne. "What does a bat taste like blahblahblah?. . . That's *really* wearing a bit thin: the bat-biting incident happened four years ago, I haven't done anything like it *since*, and I don't intend to do it again. . ."

Ozzy Osbourne groans. Ever since he bit the head off a live bat on stage in America (he *thought* it was a rubber one, or so he claims) that's all anybody has wanted to talk to him about. And though he admits that "it *was* a rather *unusual* thing to do", he's not too keen on spending the rest of his life known as "the-man-who-bites-off-bats'-heads". After all, why should this one incident overshadow Ozzy's exploits? Exploits like biting the head off a dove, robbing gas meters and clothes shops when he was young, weeing on police cars, spending endless nights in jail, blowing a flock of chickens to smithereens with a shotgun. . .

"I've always been outrageous and eccentric," Ozzy confesses. "I like to do the things which people *think* of doing but never have the guts. I think there's a little bit of Ozzy in a lot of people. Like throwing TV sets out of hotel windows – we *all* do that, don't we?"

No actually, we don't – but O.Osbourne reckons it's *tremendous* fun: "I threw one into the ocean once in Hawaii from 17 floors up. It blew up and they threw me out of the hotel." He sniggers at the memory. And then there was the time he "made two hotel rooms into one. I knocked the wall in between down with one of the drawers from the desk. It's all a part of growing up."

Perhaps so, but Ozzy still doesn't seem particularly "mature", even though he's now 37 years old, married and the father of five children, three of them by his current wife and manager, Sharon.

"I'm just like a mad clown who does bizarre things. It's just my way of being somebody, it's just a role I play. I don't purposefully go 'oh, tonight I'll go and urinate over the crown jewels' but whatever happens *happens* and I wake up thinking 'oh *noooo*, I didn't *really* puke over Mrs Smith's new cat, did I?' I feel like death warmed up and the wife says 'you *deserve* to. You know what you did last night?' and I go '*no*, don't *tell* me'. But she does and she forces me to make the phone call – 'oh I'm *ever so* sorry for what I did last night'.

"On my own I'm like an ostrich – I want to dig my head in the sand and forget about it but she shoves it down my throat. She keeps me right in order – she's like a lion tamer. She always knows what I've eaten when I go out because I come back with it down the front of my shirt. I tend to get sloppy and wear my food . . ."

Beginning to form an impression of what Ozzy Osbourne's like? A rather violent, disgusting, ill-mannered, irresponsible rock'n'roller? Yes, he's all that – but there *is* another side to him. When he's *not* running wild, chewing live animals etc., he likes to sit round his posh London home and play with his children Amy (2½), Carrie (1½) and Jack (three months), look at the *objets d'art* on his walls ("some of my paintings are supposed to be worth £15,000 – I quite like them") and watching videos ("TV in this country is so *boring*," he complains. "There should be more war films. . .").

He even quite likes Wham!. . . "I met one of them. Who's the one who drives those motorcycles?" Andrew Ridgeley – and it's *cars* . . . "Yeah. Well, I met him and he's a really nice guy. He came up to speak to me in a London club. I mean, people crash cars every day of the week but because he's a rock performer, it's *headlines*: 'Andrew Ridgeley wrecks another car – fifth this week!'. Still, I suppose he can afford it."

Ozzy isn't so keen on other pop stars though: "Who was that half of the Duran Duran thing that was on *Wogan*?" he splutters with disgust. "Arcadia? I don't even know what the song was about. Bit 'deep'n'meaningful', wasn't it? Not Ozzy Osbourne's cup of tea."

He's even *less* fond of The Smiths. The last time Ozzy talked to *Smash Hits* he announced that "there's nothing I wouldn't do if it's a laugh – except listen to The Smiths". Fifteen months later he still hates them just as much. "Thank *God* they seem to have disappeared," he sighs with heartfelt relief. "I mean, there's a point where you've just got to say 'it ain't music'. Some things are interesting but not some sod with a privet hedge hanging out of his arse. He's like a gay gardener. Even my mother, who doesn't know *anything* about music, said to me 'who's that bloke with a plant sticking out of his bum?'. It's like music to hang yourself to."

Making music, says Ozzy determinedly, is about entertainment and he hates those who disagree. Like the people involved in Red Wedge – "it makes me *sick* when people with guitars go all political". The reason he got involved way back in the '60s was, he explains, "to earn a few quid and hopefully have a bit of fun along the way."

"Nineteen years later," he admits,

OSBOURNE...

...HE'S THE VIOLENT AND OUTRAGEOUS "WILD MAN OF ROCK" WHO WEES ON POLICE CARS, THROWS TVs INTO THE SEA, LIKES WAR FILMS, CURRIES AND, OF COURSE, BITING THE HEADS OFF BATS...

"I wonder how much longer it can go on. I can't stand to think that people could ever see me down and out pushing a wheelbarrow along and say 'see him – he used to be Ozzy Osbourne'. That really frightens me."

So for the moment, the singer has no intention of giving up showbiz and frittering away his remaining days pottering around in the garden.

"*Me*?" he screams. "Gardening? You must be *joking*! I'm the one who wanted to concrete the lawn and paint it green! I do like cooking though," he admits, going on to describe in rather repulsive detail a curry he cooked for some "friends": "it gave them a suntan just looking in the bowl – they were drinking jugs of water and sticking their heads in the fridge!"

It's probably no surprise to learn that Ozzy's taste in clothes is similarly, um, *individual*. Unlike most pop stars he doesn't like trendy designer stuff ("that's for nerds, isn't it?"), preferring huge over-the-top affairs with "each sequin sewn on individually". Like the subtle little number he's wearing on the right – a snip at just (gulp) £7,500: "I'm becoming the Liberace of heavy metal. I wore a lime green dress once with a blonde wig and a German helmet just for a giggle."

But in *private* he's a perfectly normal dresser – "I just look like a slob" – doing perfectly normal things like going down to Brighton with the family, walking along the beach and visiting the fun fair: "I always win teddy bears on the rifle range. ..." In fact, to tell the truth, Ozzy Osbourne doesn't really like the wild party life *that* much after all. "I don't enjoy going to clubs or anything like that," he admits rather guiltily. "I'd much rather find a nice little coffee shop and chat to my wife."

Ozzy and his £7,500 stage suit: "I'm becoming the Liberace of heavy metal. I wore a lime green dress once with a blonde wig and a German helmet just for a giggle."

Interview: Chris Heath
Photos: Andy Catlin

SURVIVOR

BURNING HEART

[illegible]
Rival nations
It's a primitive clash
[illegible] years of frustration
Bravely we hope
Against all hope
There is so much at stake
Rooms our freedom's up
Against the ropes
Does the crowd understand
Is it East versus West
Or man against man
[illegible]

Chorus
In the burning heart
Just about to burst
There's a quest for answers
An unquenchable thirst
In the darkest night
Rising like a spire
In the burning heart
The unmistakeable fire

In the burning heart

In the warrior's calm
There's no surrender
Though his body says stop
His spirit cries never
Deep in our soul
A quiet ember
Knows it's you against you
It's the paradox
That drives us all
Is it battle of wills
In the heat of attack
It's the passion that kills
That victory assures a love

Repeat chorus

In the burning heart
Just about to burst
There's a quest for answers
An unquenchable thirst
In the blackest night
Rising like a spire
In the burning heart
The unmistakeable fire
Repeat above

In the burning heart

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Of Sunset Brothers [illegible]

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What melon is this?
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
And WHY NOT?
Because in the very next issue of Smash Hits (originally [illegible]) this year's be getting a STICKER BOOK for the [illegible] of nothing at [illegible]
YES — the Smash Hits Collection '86 is coming!
Remember last year's sticker collection 16 pages in the sticker album and 144 stickers to collect. This year it — it was getting stuck covered with glue years.
The Smash Hits Collection '86 — a 48 page sticker album — 120 full colour pop star stickers to collect!
[illegible], stupendous! Whatever next!
So in two weeks you'll be away — with a bumper, [illegible] STICKER ALBUM and a "Polaroid" pack of FIVE STICKERS all FREE with a [illegible] issue of SMASH HITS [illegible]
MAKE NO MISTAKE...
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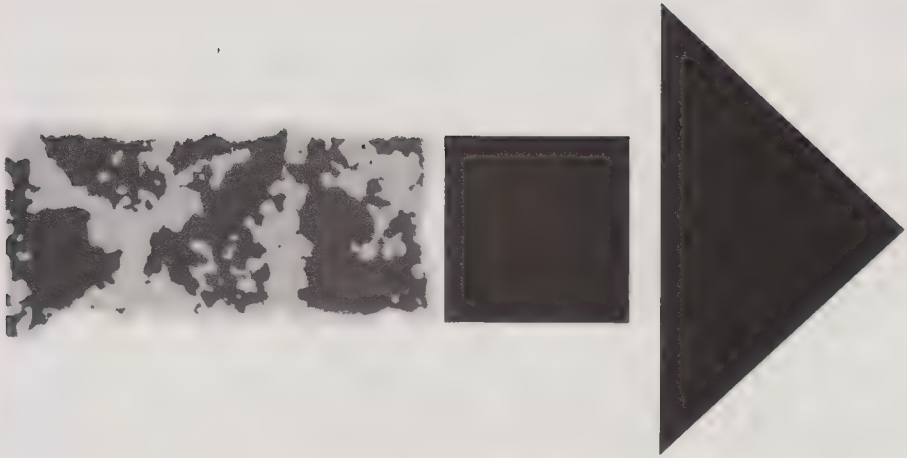

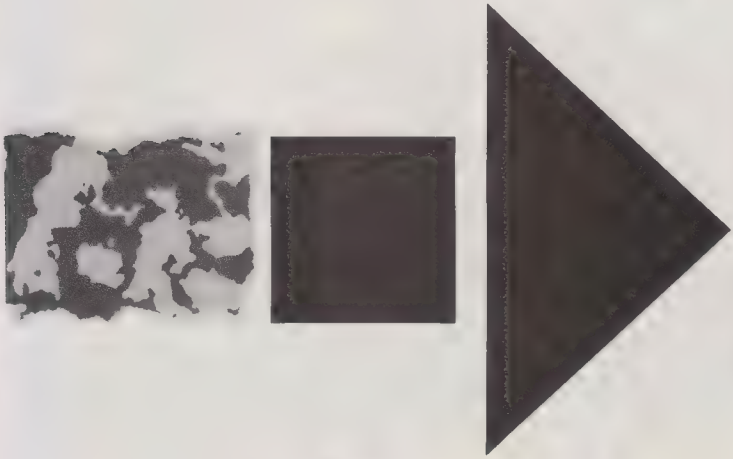

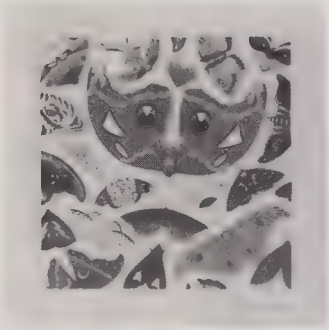

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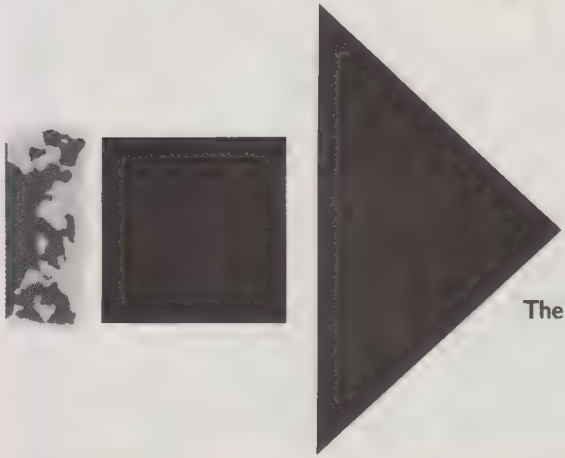

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ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

ONE DANCE WON'T DO
AUDREY HALL

One dance one dance just won't do
One dance one dance just won't do

You think one dance will do
Then I'll go home with you
You're crazy
It takes much more you see
Just to go out with me
You're crazy

Chorus
That man standing in your way
He's my man and he don't play
No no he don't play
Ooh I just wanted to see what he would do
If I danced with another man
I was flirting with you
Just to see what he would do

I let you hold me tight
Squeeze me with all your might
While dancing
I didn't know my touch
Turned you on so much
While dancing

That man standing in your way
He's my man and he don't play
Ooh I just wanted to see what he would do
If I danced with another man
I was flirting with you
Just to see what he would do oh
Wooo wooo wooo

I've got to go right now
But I think I know how
You're feeling
I'd like to stay a while
Just to console your pride
Your feelings

Repeat chorus

Wooo wooo wooo

One dance one dance just won't do
One dance one dance just won't do no
One dance one dance just won't do
One dance one dance just won't do no
One dance one dance just won't do
I said one dance one dance just won't do
One dance it can't do
I said one dance one dance just won't do

Words and music by Audrey Hall
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On Germain Records

The Blow Monkeys

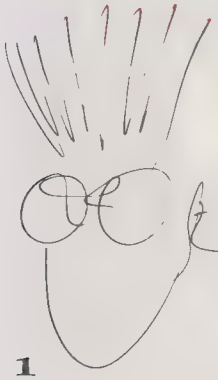
DIGGING YOUR SCENE

45 r.p.m.

RCA

PORTRAIT o

. . .as a sort of squiggly thing with a couple of blobs on and some eyes. . . Each of the pop stars pictured above produced a self portrait for *Smash Hits*, and they're all so completely brilliant and life-like and artistic that you'll have no problem sorting out who's who, will you? (Answers at the bottom of the page.)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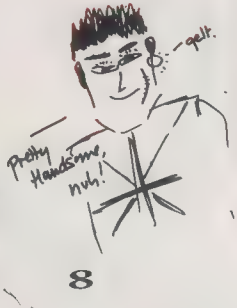

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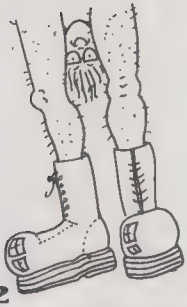
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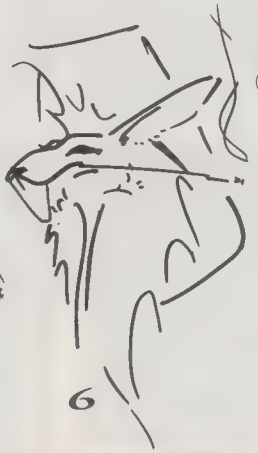
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3700	CHAS & DAVE	Ain't no pleasing	75p	3	BEAT FED	Lady Madonna	£1
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3	M NEWS	The story of the times	75p	3679	DIONNE & THE DIONNEETTS	Jetta	£1
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4300	CHICAGO	Hard to say. Hi carry	75p	4300	FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD	Relax (12 inch)	£1
3679	DALIDA	Da ziga vuelta chiaro la hart mia	75p	4024	FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD	Relax	£1
4300	DARRELL	Crazy beautiful	75p	3771	GAP BAND	Yeah (ready gone level	£1
3679	DAVID	Lovely	75p	3622	MARTIN GAYE	Sexual healing	£1
3600	HERBIE HANCOCK	Rockit	75p	789	BONNIE GAYLY	Out on the floor	£1
3600	BEE GEES	Man	£1	3679	GEORGE & THE DIVINE	Dancing in the moonlight	£1
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4300	CYDNI LAUPER	She bop	£1	872	TERRY JACKS	Seasons in the sun	£1
3700	DE JACKSON MARVIN GAYE	Sex-drugs-rock. Marvin & John	£1	60
3600	SHEILA	Ain't nothing get me	£1	60
3600	PRINCE LAUPER	Don't you want to know how	£1	60
3679	ALAN STEWART	Rudy, pony	£1	60
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3148	BILLY	On you refusers	£1	60
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3700	BILLOCEAN	Without you Everybody's jubilee	£1	60
3148	BILLY OCEAN	Love hurts hurts Total light quality change	£1	60
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3679	PRINCE PAYNE	Band of gold	£1	60
317	SALLY	Sunrunner measure	£1	60
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3600	TOM & C	as tell in tears	£1	60
3679	TOM & C	Ain't	£1	60
3273	BONNIE TYLER	Total eclipse of the heart	£1	60
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4210	SPAND	Gotta one up before you go	£1	60
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3700	PAUL WELL	Gotta get away	£1	60
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ANSWERS

1. Tom Bailey (Thompson Twins); 2. Alison Moyet; 3. Adam Ant; 4. Mike Peters (The Alarm); 5. Pål Waaktaar (A-ha); 6. Morten Harket (A-ha); 7. Curt Smith (Tears For Fears); 8. Jon Moss (Culture Club); 9. Roger Taylor (Arcadia); 10. Nick Rhodes (Arcadia); 11. Alannah Currie (Thompson Twins); 12. Megs (A-ha); 13. Simon "le" Bon (Arcadia); 14. Neil Arthur (Blancmange); 15. Joe Leeway (Thompson Twins); 16. Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode); 17. Stephen Luscombe (Blancmange); 18. Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears).

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- BRONSKI BEAT
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- DIRE STRAITS
- ELTON JOHN
- EURYTHMICS
- FEARGAL SHARKEY
- FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS
- FIVE STAR
- FULL FORCE
- GRACE JONES
- JAMES BROWN
- JENNIFER RUSH
- KING
- LADIES CHOICE
- LEVEL 42
- MADONNA
- MR MISTER
- NANA MOUSKOURI
- PET SHOP BOYS
- PHIL COLLINS
- RAY PARKER JR
- SARAH BRIGHTMAN
- SOPHIA GEORGE
- STARSHIP
- STING
- TALK TALK
- THE ALARM
- WHAM
- WHITNEY HOUSTON

S	K	S	N	I	L	L	O	C	L	I	H	P	N	M	A	H	W
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I	N	J	J	N	B	U	M	2	E	G	S	D	E	I	R	U	E
M	G	A	L	A	O	A	O	N	4	N	N	L	C	A	A	R	C
H	D	M	S	A	D	T	O	K	A	L	T	I	Y	A	C	R	R
T	A	E	H	O	E	J	S	E	S	O	E	P	T	R	E	E	O
Y	N	A	N	P	D	N	C	U	N	U	A	V	A	S	J	F	F
R	N	N	K	E	E	O	O	J	O	R	O	T	E	K	O	I	L
U	A	4	L	L	Y	U	O	R	K	H	H	M	B	L	N	N	L
E	L	A	2	L	A	H	R	E	E	E	Y	E	A	E	E	N	U
C	C	G	L	E	N	T	R	Y	A	D	L	E	Y	N	S	E	F
I	R	I	E	V	P	J	K	L	T	O	N	O	N	A	A	J	R
O	B	A	P	G	R	E	A	L	U	H	U	A	R	T	B	N	A
H	P	N	T	H	R	R	T	I	A	N	M	E	X	R	I	S	P
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A	A	A	L	I	B	A	M	B	Y	S	H	R	O	I	M	B	S
L	T	M	B	H	N	O	E	I	E	E	E	P	H	Y	P	H	E
F	S	A	A	K	T	A	4	R	S	L	N	P	O	Y	S	A	M
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S	A	I	E	N	N	D	M	E	A	S	E	R	F	M	R	A	J
S	N	Y	E	K	R	A	H	S	L	A	G	R	A	E	F	S	M

All the names above are hidden in the diagram. They could run horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Some run backwards. But remember that the titles are all in an uninterrupted straight line whichever way they run.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 61

CONCERTS

ELO: Birmingham NEC (*March 15*).

■ This is a charity concert in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital. The line-up will be completed by other Midlands based acts including The Moody Blues, Robert Plant, Denny Laine and Roy Wood, plus Jasper Carrott and "nostalgic reunions" for the Applejacks, The Move and the Rockin' Berries. Tickets for the concert are £15 plus a booking fee of 50p and are available from the following agents: Birmingham – Cyclops Sounds, Ticket Shop, Odeon Theatre; Wolverhampton – Goulds; Hanley, Newcastle Under Lyme and Stafford – Mike Lloyd; Nottingham and Derby – Way Ahead.

GENE LOVES JEZEBEL: London U.L.U. (*March 6*), Brighton Sussex University (*7*), Colchester Essex University (*8*), Swansea Marina (*11*), Keele University (*12*), Bangor University (*13*),

Birmingham Polytechnic (*14*), Coventry Polytechnic (*15*), Sheffield Leadmill (*16*), Manchester Fagins (*18*), Huddersfield Polytechnic (*19*), Newcastle Tiffanys (*22*).

NANA MOUSKOURI: London Palladium (*March 1*).

SIGUE SIGUE SPUTNIK: Norwich University of East Anglia (*February 27*), Reading Bridges Hall (*28*), Colchester Essex University (*March 1*), Coventry Polytechnic (*2*), Stoke-on-Trent Shelleys (*4*), Dunstable Queensway Hall (*5*), Manchester

International (*7*), Leicester Polytechnic (*8*), Birmingham Powerhouse (*9*), Leeds Polytechnic (*11*), Newcastle Tiffanys (*12*), Aberdeen Ritzy (*13*), Glasgow University Queen Margaret Union (*14*), Edinburgh Empire (*16*).

STEEL PULSE: Leicester Polytechnic (*February 26*), Manchester International (*27*), Oxford Polytechnic (*28*), Hull University (*March 1*), Exeter University (*3*), Leeds University (*5*), Aberystwyth University (*6*), Bristol University (*7*), Birmingham Odeon (*8*), Southampton Mayfair (*9*), Penzance Demelza's (*10*), Brighton Top Rank (*12*), Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall (*13*), Nottingham Marcus Garvey Centre (*14*), London Hammersmith Palais (*16*).

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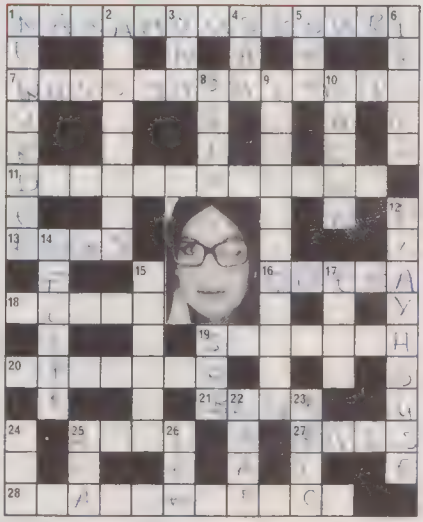
ACROSS

1 See photoclue (4,9)
7 Oh moon, show Wiz and discover **Aretha's** big hit (anag 4,6,3)
11 "The --- ------ --- Came (**Blancmange** 3,6 3)
13 Just **Bryan Ferry's** sort of music
16 It was home to **Sarah** and **Steve's** phantom
18 The girl **Full Force** wanted just for them
19 **The Limit's** advice on agreeing (3,4)
20 See 24 down
21 The colour of a **Fine Young Cannibals** hit
25 **Harold Faltermeyer's** Mr F
27 Feline that **Adam Ant** had in boots
28 "Hit ---- ------- Beat" (**Bronski Beat** 4,7)

DOWN

1 They delivered the perfect kiss (3,5)
2 "Never Never" men
3 **Yoko** amid "Union Of The Snake"?
4 Short Ms Fox amid "It's A Miracle"
5 "Life On Your ---" (**Human League**)
6 Ron is the other half of "Brideshead" actor **Jeremy** (anag)
8 Norwegian city that two thirds of 25 down came from
9 How **Chaka Khan** expressed her love in '84 (1,4,3,3)
10 Vehicle **REO** speeded on?
12 **Paul Young** wanted to tear yours down
14 Just **Dire Straits'** sort of walk (2,4)
15 "Toot Toot" **LaSalle**
17 **George Benson** was in yours
19 Athlete **Coe** in "Cantonese Boy"?
22 Bread you add to **Meat**
23 **Wham!'s** record label
24 and **20** across Once they were close to the edit (3,2,5)
25 TV sunshine songsters
26 Eel turns for **D.C.** (anag)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 61



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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE THESE MEN HAPPY?

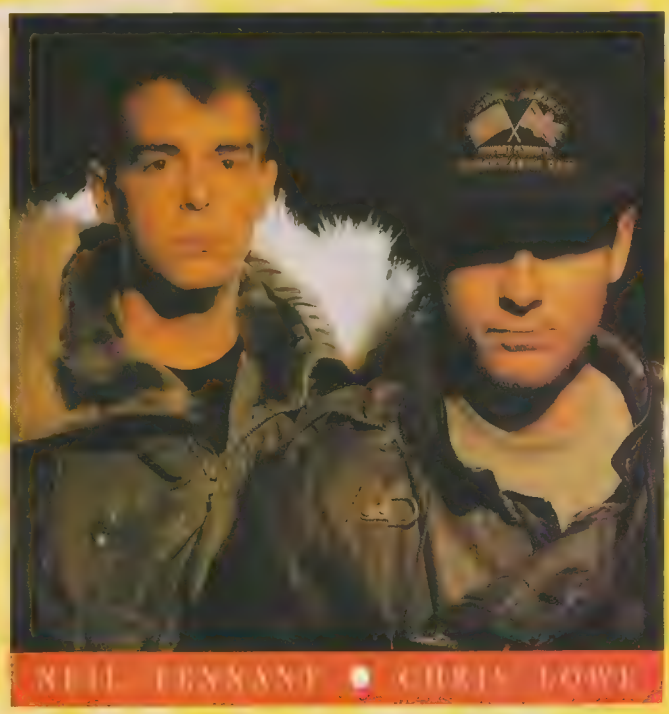
A NUMBER ONE RECORD? GETTING ON THE COVER OF *SMASH HITS?* LOTS OF LOVELY MONEY? WELL, THEY'VE HAD ALL THAT AND THEY *STILL* LOOK LIKE THE GRUMPIEST MEN IN POP MUSIC. BUT WHY? "WELL. . .," CHUCKLES A PET SHOP BOY. "I THINK *SMASH HITS* READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS ISN'T JUST AN IMAGE. . ."

"People endlessly ask us what it's like having a number one. But what it feels like is vaguely *nothing*. It's like having a cup of tea." Neil Tennant laughs a little guiltily. He knows that, to thousands of other pop stars who'd love to have the kind of success the Pet Shop Boys have just had with "West End Girls", it must seem awfully easy for him to compare it with "having a cup of tea". But he insists that the day they found out they were number one was hardly the most magical, happiest moment of their life and he sees no reason why it should have been. In fact, he remembers, Chris was positively fed up for most of the day after discovering that their record company had started to sell "West End Girls" 12" singles without picture sleeves. "The fact that you're number one," Neil points out, "doesn't automatically mean that you're in a good mood."

From their mean'n'moody expressions on TV and in their photos you could be forgiven for thinking that they were the grumpiest men in pop. Chris particularly seems to be cultivating an image of looking so miserable that it's hard to believe he's ever looked happy in his life.

"Well . . .," chuckles Neil, "I think *Smash Hits* readers should be aware that it isn't just an image . . ."

"The thing is," explains Chris, "in all those situations where the public sees me – being photographed or making videos – I am *genuinely* miserable."



In fact, far from being the deadly serious duo you might imagine, most of the time they're so flippant and jokey that it's hard to believe they take this pop star business seriously at all. Though Neil does start getting a little earnest and gives Chris a ticking off when he starts being horrible about other pop stars.

"We're definitely anti-King," sniggers Chris.

"We're not saying *anything* nasty in this interview," says Neil firmly, "not even about King." He doesn't want a repetition of the last time they spoke rather too freely and a newspaper branded them "The rudest men in rock".

Instead they start laughing about some of the other ridiculous questions they've been asked in interviews since their success. "Someone asked us 'did you always dream of being a star?' – that's my favourite," says Neil, who finds the idea of someone referring to him as a 'star' fairly ludicrous. "I just sniggered."

He doesn't take questions about his private life much more seriously. "Am I married?" he ponders. "Perhaps I should say I am. No," he decides, "I think I've had a secret broken heart. That's it – I'm nursing a secret broken heart." Really?

"It's too upsetting for me to talk about," he continues, trying rather unsuccessfully to sound distressed and heartbroken. "But if you listen *very carefully* to the lyrics of our songs you'll get some idea of what I'm talking about . . ."

So what's their new single, "Love Comes Quickly", all about?

"It's very angst-ridden," explains Neil. "It's about falling in love. We wrote it about a year ago when Chris used to come down from Liverpool at the weekends and we'd go to a friend's studio in Camden Town every Saturday night.

"Normally when you write a song you just sing a boring phrase – like, when Paul McCartney wrote 'Yesterday' he sung 'scrambled eggs' as the lyric for ages because he couldn't think of any words – but this time I just started singing 'Love Comes Quickly' and it all just came into my head. I think the best songs are like that – they come into your head at one go."

Nevertheless, the song probably didn't sound much like it does now, because, as Neil's only too ready to admit, his singing has only really began to shape up since he started having lessons last June.

"I go to a woman called Eve. She used to teach Marilyn – she says he had a marvellous, very strong voice but he wasn't prepared to work on it."

Neil is, and goes twice a week to practise singing classical stuff. "She wants me to join the London Baroque Choir," he reveals. "She says I've got the most perfect Baroque voice which means, I think, that I've got a voice that's not very rich in emotion but is very clean sounding."

Sadly, Eve's not very enamoured with the Pet Shop Boys: "When I play her the records," laughs Neil, "she always goes 'I can't hear your voice – the drums are too loud.' She can't *understand* why they have such loud drums on pop records. She says '*Really*, Neil. Something should be *done* about it. It's ridiculous.'"

It may be ridiculous to Eve, but it's been successful enough for Neil and Chris to start

getting stopped in the street ("Unless I wear my glasses – then no-one recognises me at all," says Neil), for "West End Girls" to have been played in the background on *EastEnders, South Of Watford* and *Only Fools And Horses* and, presumably, to have considerably swollen their bank accounts.

"I've no idea how much we've earnt," says Neil. "I'm still actually being paid slightly less than I was getting when I left *Smash Hits* though we may pay ourselves a bit more in a few weeks."

That's assuming that things go well. And if they don't? "I won't slash my wrists," says Neil. "If the new single's not a hit, I'll just go 'oh dear, we're-down-the-dumper-I-knew-we-would-be-time-to-get-a-job'."

Considering how good "Love Comes Quickly" is, that's not very likely, so we can expect their album (called "Please" so that people can walk into the shop and say 'can I have the Pet Shop Boys album, "Please"?') to be out next month and for them to tour near the end of the year.

"It'll be really theatrical," says Chris, "with lots of entrances and exits . . . "

"And," adds Neil, "if we have any backing musicians they won't be on stage, they'll be in the orchestra pit. We don't want some *tragic* bass player wandering around . . . "

And after that, who knows?

"We're not exactly thinking of retiring," explains Neil, "but we've got this *plan*. Everyone thinks it's a joke but actually it's serious. The Pet Shop Boys will carry on, but we'll stop being the front men. Instead we'll change the line-up every year or so – suddenly there'll be four 16-year-old boys as the Pet Shop Boys and then the next thing you know they'll have been replaced by two 35-year-old Elaine Paige types. We'll be fed up with it all by then so we'll just write the music.

"We'll be able to spend our time doing the nice things like going to bed early. We won't have to have our photograph taken or be asked why we're called The Pet Shop Boys. We can just make the records. And make *lots* of money."

Interview: **Chris Heath**
Photos: **Eric Watson**

Neil Tennant

HOW DID YOU MEET?
We met in an electrical shop on the King's Road. I was getting a plug for my synthesiser, Chris was buying something and we started talking and Chris came back to my flat to look at my synthesiser. After that we became friends and started writing songs together. No-one will believe that a) we met like that and b) we got the name the Pet Shop Boys from some friends who worked in a pet shop – people think it means something rude. But both stories are true.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF CHRIS?
He was kind of nervous and funny, and he laughed a lot. He's the kind of person who talks to strangers whereas I'm not really.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE CHRIS NOW?
He's moody – that's the key to Chris's personality. He's a very up-and-down person – when he's in a good mood he's very, very funny and light. When he's in a bad mood he makes everything a bit grim, there's no communicating with him. I'm more even-tempered.

WHAT ARE HIS FAULTS?
Being too moody. And he picks his nose a lot – he often sits and picks his nose. I'm always worried he'll do it on television. It's good that he's moody though because it keeps our standards up. I'll go along with things to be polite to people and to make life easy. I'm kind of the Paul McCartney of the group and he's the John Lennon. And that's probably quite a good thing.

WHAT ARE CHRIS'S FAVOURITE RECORDS?
His favourite one at the moment is one by Angie Gold called "Eat You Up", but I've never heard it. His others are "Passion" by The Flirts and "Loveride" by Nuance, which is also one of mine. He *hates* most stuff in the charts and all rock music – though, rather bizarrely, he's liked Simple Minds' last few records.

WHAT'S THE NICEST THING ABOUT CHRIS?
When he's funny. Some people have the ability to create a good atmosphere and make everything seem funny. Chris can do that. When he's in a good mood it seems as if nothing can go wrong.

WHAT REALLY ANNOYS HIM?
He absolutely *hates* people smoking. He doesn't like it when people put him in embarrassing situations either. And people who drink and drive annoy him.

WHO'S THE BOSS?
There isn't a boss. I'm the bossy one and I get more involved in things like money but Chris makes a lot more of the musical decisions.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ARGUMENT YOU'VE HAD?
Until recently I could have said that Chris and I have never had an argument. But we had an argument about doing things for radio stations. He drove me absolutely mad! All he had to say was "This is Neil and Chris from the Pet Shop Boys" but he put on this gruff voice and said it really fast. And then he started to think *I* was being really bossy and I just got irritated. Eventually I *slammed* the headphones down and said "OK, let's not bother to do it". He slammed his down and we sat down in the next room facing away from each other. The engineer and Chris's sister were *screaming* with laughter.

WHO IS THE "COOLEST"?
Chris is. Well, he *tries* to be cool anyway. I think I'm a bit uncool really in many ways. At the moment I'm a bit concerned that this top I'm wearing doesn't go

Chris Lowe

HOW DID YOU MEET?
This is like interrogation, this! I was working and living in Chelsea, Neil was living around the corner and we met in the shop on Saturday. I can't remember what we talked about – I've got a terrible memory.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF NEIL?
I thought he was sort of brainy. Um. . .I don't know what I think of half the people I know.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE NEIL NOW?
Wicked questions! I can't answer these! How would I describe Neil? talented. . .generous. . .stylish. . . musical. . .I'm going to be dead nice actually.

WHAT ARE HIS FAULTS?
He's a bit bossy, he's too tidy and if you've got to do something he realises you've *got* to do it, whereas I'll say "I'm not doing that." He has a sense of

with this shirt I'm wearing. Whereas Chris wouldn't wear this unless he *knew* it was right. He always buys the "right" everything – I'm a bit sloppy about things like that.

WHO'S THE POSHEST?

Me. Although our backgrounds are almost identical – my father is Sales Manager for the legendary rubber company and Chris's father, certainly until recently, also did a job like that. I think I've got the poshest voice. I think Chris rather likes having a more street-cred one.

DESCRIBE CHRIS'S FLAT. . .

It's a studio flat in North London on a main road. He only moved there in November so I've only been around about six times. The kitchen's quite nice – it overlooks a building site. It has amazing '60s foam rubber chairs and he's got a futon, a black and white television and a record player. Um. . . it's not a very nice flat. For a while Chris was staying at my flat and I used to get irritated because he was so incredibly messy. Then he got his own flat and his sister Vicky moved in, and now he complains how messy *she* is.

WHAT DOES CHRIS SAY WHEN YOU WATCH YOUR PERFORMANCES ON *TOP OF THE POPS*?

He kind of groans and laughs. It's not nerve-wracking recording *Top Of The Pops* but it's terrible watching it with other people there. The first time Chris just went "Oh, *noooooooo*."

TELL US A SECRET ABOUT CHRIS. . .

He goes to fitness classes on Saturday mornings. And he's scared of being burgled – he's got a real paranoia about people breaking into his flat at night.

HAS HE CHANGED?

I used to think he was incredibly immature – because he *was*. He wasn't interested in politics and he never used to read anything. But these days he's more responsible because I make decisions on the spur of the moment and have disasters, whereas he thinks about things very carefully.

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER GO ON – A) A CLUB 18-30 HOLIDAY B) THE MAGIC BUS TO MARRAKESH C) PONY TREKKING IN WALES?

Pony trekking, because I always wanted to go horse-riding and that's the nearest thing there is. Also I've never really been to Wales. I wouldn't really like to go on a Club 18-30 holiday even though I'm only, ahem, 26 (*Neil Tennant is 31 – Ed.*) – I don't think I'd like the people. I wouldn't like the hippie trail to Marrakesh because I don't like hippies and they wouldn't stay in nice hotels.

"I'm kind of the Paul McCartney of the group and Chris is the John Lennon. And that's probably quite a good thing."

obligation. From my point of view that's a bad thing though it's quite a good thing really.

WHAT ARE NEIL'S FAVOURITE RECORDS?

"Sanctify" by Simple Minds, Madonna records, "You And Me" by The Flirts and "Who's Zoomin' Who" by Aretha Franklin. And "The Sun Always Shines On TV".

WHAT'S THE NICEST THING ABOUT NEIL?

His generosity. And his sense of right. He's very good at telling if someone's a good person, if their intentions are good. He'll quite often say about somebody "Oh yeah, they're a good person." If there's a charity thing he'll always want to give money.

WHAT REALLY ANNOYS HIM?

I can annoy him quite a lot by being silly or stroppy. It's part of my basic nature that I have to throw a spanner in the works every now and then. Sometimes we can argue about something that really isn't very important and I might even know he's right but won't say – that really annoys him. Also incompetence annoys him – like if something's been changed on the record sleeve and it looks awful.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Neil tends to be the boss, I think. He's very good at organising things – I'm a bit lazy really. I'm the Andrew Ridgeley of the . . .no no no, I shouldn't say that. It'll make people think I don't do anything at all.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST ARGUMENT YOU'VE HAD?

Well, we just argued about the level of the vocals on the 12" (*of "Love Comes Quickly"*). Neil didn't think they were loud enough and I thought they were *too* loud. We took them down in the end. We also had an argument recently in a restaurant about whether prisoners should be allowed to make vast amounts of money out of publishing their stories. My argument was that I didn't see why they shouldn't as they are paying the price of their crime by being in prison. Neil didn't agree.

WHO IS THE "COOLEST"?

Neil. All I ever wear is jeans, trainers, a t-shirt, a sweat shirt and a nice coat. Neil wears different clothes and I think he looks really good – especially in those tight black cycling trousers. I'm not a cool person – I've always been a bit of a prat myself. It's more fun. I like winding people up.

WHO'S THE POSHEST?

I think that Neil would say that he is the snootiest because he *is* quite snooty. I don't think I'm posh. I don't like the whole concept of posh because it's real class system stuff. I don't think it's good that working class people sneer at posh people and posh people think "pooh – working class people". So I don't even like to think in those terms.

DESCRIBE NEIL'S FLAT

It's a studio flat with a really good view into the King's Road (*Chelsea*) and the best thing about it is that he's got a water heater and central heating. I'd love to have a flat like that. It's a very, very tidy flat and it's naff – horrible uncomfortable chairs – because it's rented. But all in all it's not a bad flat – it's a lot more homely than mine. Mine doesn't look as if anyone lives there.

WHAT DOES NEIL SAY WHEN YOU WATCH YOUR PERFORMANCES ON *TOP OF THE POPS*?

The first time we were *appalled* – we both hated it. Because the lighting was so terrible. I can't remember what he said though because of my terrible memory. But by the third time I thought we looked pretty good. You think I look as if I really hate being there? Well, I'm just thinking "what am I doing here?". I don't really like doing those things – I can't smile inanely so I just let my face be natural. A lot of people through my entire life have come up to me and said "Cheer up – it might never happen." Which *really* winds me up. I've just got one of those faces that look miserable.

TELL US A SECRET ABOUT NEIL. . .

A secret? Oh, this is a real cunning exercise. (*Thinks hard.*) All of them are too horrible to say! (*Thinks again.*) He's got an Action Man! It's dressed in combat uniform and he keeps it on his bookshelf.

HAS HE CHANGED?

The main thing that's changed is his dressing – he's become more stylish. But other than that I don't think he's changed at all – he's still a jolly decent chap.

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER GO ON – A) A CLUB 18-30 HOLIDAY B) THE MAGIC BUS TO MARRAKESH C) PONY TREKKING IN WALES?

I'd rather go on a Club 18-30 holiday. I like the whole package holiday thing – it's just a good laugh. I went pony-trekking once in Wales when I was young, with the family. It was good but scary – the ponies would lean over these big drops to eat some grass and I was like . . . eyyyowwww.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Mousse Competition (December 18)
● There isn't enough room to print all 250 winners but prizes will be posted within the next couple of weeks

Bryan Ferry Competition (December 18)
● Correct answer a) John Lennon Five winners of a sweatshirt, video and 12" single of "Windswept" are: **Ann Williams**, Horsham, **Sarah Wright**, Suffolk, **Kate Williams**, Luton, **John Lister**, North Yorkshire, **Jeremy Boughey**, Staffs

Crow Competition (December 18)
● Correct answers d) bolts & e) a tractor. Five winners of a crow are **I.R. Jolley**, Lewes; **N. Sanders**, Shropshire, **Lynn Neads**, Avon; **B. Kennedy**, Coventry, **Helen Sturge**, Camberwell

Crazy For You Competition (January 1)
● Correct answer Madonna Ciccone or Madonna Penn The twenty winners of a "Crazy For You" sweatshirt are **Mandy Norton**, Halewood; **Alison Pemberton**, Clackmannanshire, **Karen Hobolth**, Glasgow, **Jan Hurst**, Maidstone, **Victoria Barnett**, Hants; **Sarah Walton**, Derby, **N Wilamowska**, Derby; **Julie Stacey**, Birmingham, **Catherine Hall**, Lancs, **Julie Deppe**, London, **Denise Riordan**, Pettigo; **Susan Lillie**, Swalwell, **Lindsay Hart**, Bilange, **Tracy Fores**, Hull, **Stephanie Miles**, Leicestershire, **Diane McDonagh**, Halifax **Krystyna Skibinska**, Huddersfield, **S. Irminger**, Essex, **Michael Branson**, Cardiff, **Nicola Allen**, Newport, **David Fulton**, Tweedale.

Hits Video Competition (January 1)
● Correct answer b) Paint Your Wagon The ten winners of a Hits video are: **Dennis Gould Jar**, Hartlepool, **Steven Greenhough**, Derbyshire, **G. Cummings**, London; **Roberta Belcher**, Yorkshire, **Sherry Golder**, Banbury; **Lisa McCague**, Coventry, **Tracey Dennis**, Kent, **Joanne Broderick**, Mirfield, **U. James**, Leicester; **Caroline McCarthy**, Cheltenham

Levi's 501 Competition (January 1)
● Correct answer c) "So Red The Rose" by Arcadia. The very lucky person who won a pair of jeans, a sweatshirt, concert tickets and got to meet Sting was **Deborah Newey** from Meriden, near Coventry The second prize winner of a pair of concert tickets, jeans, sweatshirt and LP was **Janet Waight**, Putney, London. The following forty all won a pair of jeans and a poster **Josephine Tomkins**, Huntingdon, **Joanne Cogger** Ringwood, **R.K. Minter**, Suffolk, **G. Evans**, Northwich, **Charlie Cam**, Southampton, **Emma Courtney**, Norfolk, **Candida Checksfield**, Oxford, **Paul Favero**, Eastbourne, **Louise Thomson**, Merseyside, **S.E. Ingman**, Andover, **Kim Laugher**, Goring on Thames, **Richard Jackson**, Farnham, **Alexandra Pearce** London, **Andrew Valentine**, Bristol, **Carol Bolton**, Leeds, **Stephen Doherty**, Staffs, **Sasha Conder**, Wolvercote, **Sally-Ann Burgess**, Chelmsford; **Jane Morton**, Southport; **Mark Graysmark**, Crawley, **Robin Hutchinson**, Beverley, **Daniel Rosen**, Highgate, **Elaine Owen**, Dyfed, **Helen White**, Rotherham; **Vicky Aston**, Cheshire, **Jeremy Pugh**, Birmingham, **Gina Pritchard**, Staffs **Andrea Battye**, Huddersfield, **Mel Hunter**, Warwickshire, **Steve Williamson**, West Midlands. **Carol Mason**, Evington, **Vickie Orton**, Cambridge; **D Lee**, Berks **Natasha Granger**, Glasgow, **D. Wood**, Doncaster, **Marie Dunks**, Grimsby, **David Noonan**, Hounslow, **Rosalind Hills**, Enfield; **Simon Hassan**, Fulham, **Iain Grant**, Oxon The next twenty win an LP **Sarah Noller**, Peterborough, **L. Dow**, Co Durham, **Fiona Snell**, Killingworth, **Christine Tyson**, Devon, **Denise Silva Almedia**, London; **Claire Veryard**, Redhill, **Dawn Wood**, Doncaster, **Nichola Jennings** Cheshire, **Suzi-Jo Curtis**, North Devon, **Sarah Coombes**, Dorset, **Kate Lambert**, Whitley Bay, **Shaheen Ashrat**, Surrey, **Claire Alderson**, Co Durham, **J. Firth**, Clayton, **Tracey Cloughton**, Darlington, **R. Beswick**, Bradford, **Sian Thomas**, Northumberland, **S. Kausman**, Slough, **James Pollock**, Wakefield; **Elaine Satchell**, Luton The next twenty win a poster **Neil Warren**, Berkshire, **Sara Smith**, Bedfordshire; **Helen Johnson**, Sunderland, **Naomi Barbour**, Oxon; **Simon Mills**, West Midlands, **Richard McKie**, Dyfed, **Serena Nixon**, Staffs, **Lisa Glover**, Birmingham, **Brian Anderson**, Sunderland, **Keith Davidson**, Seaham, **Nicola Houghton**, Cleveland **Joanne Halligan**, Oxford; **Caitheleen Moloney**, Wiltshire; **Margaret Harris**, Lancashire, **Brigg Ferrier**, Manchester; **Louise Tomlin**, Bedford, **Jim**, Acton, London; **Steve Aubin**, Southampton, **Neil Hillyer**, Hants, **Juliet Molloy**, Haywards Heath

Winkie Competition (January 15)
● Correct answer a) Binary Ten winners of a Winkie t-shirt and a "friend chip" are. **Peter Dawson**, Bristol, **Stuart Armstrong**, Wallsend, **Michael Hilton**, Manchester, **Sarah Woods**, Cheltenham; **R Crosbie**, Romford, **Steve**, Staffordshire; **Rachel Kellett**, Preston; **Tracy Ellis**, York, **Karen Reed**, Orpington, **Sharon Richards**, Dyfed.

Pet Shop Boys Competition (January 15)
● Correct answer c) 360° Five winners of a fantastically rare 10" limited edition round sleeved version of "West End Girls" are. **David Soutar**, Perth; **Wendy Marshall**, Lincs; **Anne-Marie Stanley**, Surrey, **A. Barnett**, Cheltenham, **Susan Waring**, Liverpool.

A-Ha Competition (January 15)
● Correct answers are "Morton Harket" and "theology is the study of God and religion". One squillion people entered, but the twenty-five winners of a picture disc, a signed 12" single and poster are **Yvonne Salmon**, Torquay; **Jennifer Pitchbeck**, Boston, **F. Haining**, Springholm, **Linda Collins**, Liverpool. **Esther Finch**, Great Wyrley, **Irene MacIntosh**, Prestwick, **Charlotte Morris**, Chester, **Wendy Carrick**, Glasgow; **Mo Kwango**, Barnwell; **Ania Mrowka**, Twickenham, **V Bye**, Southampton, **Elaine Macey**, Colchester **Joanne Jopling**, Birtley, **Sara Flint**, London, **Louisa Kidd**, Devon, **Catherine O'Neill**, Torquay, **S. Pattinson**, Durham; **Claire Munroe**, Darlington, **Rachel Lafferty**, Dorset, **Jacky Kerrigan**, Willington, **Lee Ethennington**, Surrey; **Carla Robinson**, Blackpool, **Jane Outtrim**, Beds; **Simon Thompson**, Coulsdon, **Louise Hodgson**, Norfolk.

Lloyd Cole Competition (January 29)
● Euuuuucchh!! *Bitz* asked for the answers "on an interesting stain" and this was the result one revolting holey old "sock" (which probably walked here by itself), a horrid pair of knickers covered in extremely smelly blackcurrant juice and a rather artistically daubed piece of ancient t-shirt All three senders got the correct answer, which was c) an "actress" pretending to to be a moronic "housewife" in a completely pathetic and sexist washing powder ad. They, and the other 13 people listed here each win a 12" single of "Cut Me Down" and a shirt **C.E. Lane**, Southampton, **Sandy Williams**, London, **Jayne Dixon**, Leicester, **J. Hetherton**, Rugby, **Mervyn Grant**, Nairn, **A. Daniels**, London, **Paula Johnston**, Reading, **D. Fox**, Southampton, **Simon Mizrahi**, Manchester, **Ian Hellawell**, Cleveland, **Michelle Bithel**, Clwyd, **Andrew Buchanan**, Stirling, **Ed "horrible sock" Young**, Tisbury; **Alan "horrible knickers" Bolger**, Lancs, **Andy "horrible t-shirt" Watson**, Manchester.

Talk Talk Competition (January 29)
● Correct answer c) Buzby. Five winners of a 12" single, video and diary are **Vicki Hipkins**, Billingham; **Gary Pursey**, Romford, **Gill Rafferty** Hants, **M. Hunter**, Atherstone, **Eleanor Brogan**, Surrey The following twenty win a 12" single **Charlotte Leeming**, Leicester, **L. McNaught**, Glasgow, **J.R.J. Carmelo**, London, **Elaine MacGregor**, Aberdeenshire, **Julia Smith** West Mids **Jayne Caldeira**, Hull, **Helen Wake**, Somerset, **Louise Hedges**, Bristol, **E. Finnen**, Balmullloch, **Sarah Greenshields**, Whetstone, **Graeme Farquharson**, Fareham, **Alistair McGrady**, Nottingham, **Julie Presswell**, London; **Alison Cheung**, Merseyside; **Damon Sylvester**, Coychurch, **Paula Loader**, Dumfriesshire, **Samantha Blakemore**, Sheffield, **Jo-anne Gibbs**, Rainham; **Ed Wood**, Exeter, **Janet Birch**, Lancashire

Chewits Competition (January 29)
● Amazingly enough, lots of people got this right – the correct answer was David Bowie (because he had different coloured eyes, right?) There was only supposed to be one prize, but since three people were silly enough to send the answer on an actual sweetie, they'll all get some Chewits and Opal Fruits. The "lucky" winners are **Amanda Hart**, Warwickshire, **Victoria Liddicoat**, Cornwall; Antonia Carrino, High Heaton.

SU POLLARD

STARTING TOGETHER

We're starting together
We're taking a chance on what we feel
We're starting together
Because we believe our love is real
We'll promise to have and to hold
From this day on
Until we're frail and old
There's no chance of breaking
The vows that we're making

We're starting together
And suddenly everything is new
We're starting together
Not thinking of one
Any more but two
We both have so much
That we can learn
Trust and respect
We've got to earn
It can only get better
Now we're starting together

It seems only yesterday
We met and fell in love
Who'd have believed
We'd come this far
The future's a mystery
We're bound to make some mistakes
But we'll get through the heartaches
So here we are

Starting together
You're learning to live
With all my faults
We're starting together
What's yours is mine
What's mine is yours
And when the years
Have slipped away
Maybe you'll turn to me and say
That we were so clever
Starting together

The future's a mystery
We're bound to make some mistakes
But we'll get through the heartaches
So here we are

Starting together
(Starting together)
You're learning to live
With all my faults
We're starting together
(Starting together)
What's yours is mine
What's mine is yours

Starting together
Starting together (starting together)
Starting together (starting together)
Starting together (starting together)
Starting together (starting together)

Words and music by Bill Buckley
Reproduced by permission
Bill Buckley Music London SE1 7SJ
On Rainbow Records

PAUL HARDCASTLE

FEATURING

CAROL KENYON

You keep coming around
Knocking at the door
But now I just won't answer
I've heard it all before
All you did was keep me
Within your web of lies
But I've got a message for you boy
You'll find it a big surprise

Chorus
I won't lie here's my reply
Don't waste my time
Nice try goodbye
Don't waste my time
I won't lie this is my reply
Don't waste my time
Nice try goodbye
Don't waste my time

Next time you gonna play your games
There's something you ought to know
I've been around for a while boy
And I can see through your show

I'm not impressed
By your high and mighty ways
All you got coming
Are dark and lonely days
There was a time
I was willing to be your wife
But that's all changed now
I'm starting a brand new life

Repeat chorus

Repeat first verse

Repeat chorus

Next time you gonna play your games
There's something you ought to know
I've been around for a while boy
And I can see through your show

Don't waste my time
Nice try goodbye
Don't waste my time
I won't lie this is my reply
Don't waste my time
Nice try goodbye
Don't waste my time

You keep coming around
Don't waste my time
Nice try goodbye
Don't waste my time
All you did was keep me
Within your web of lies
But I've got a message for you boy

Words and music by Paul Hardcastle
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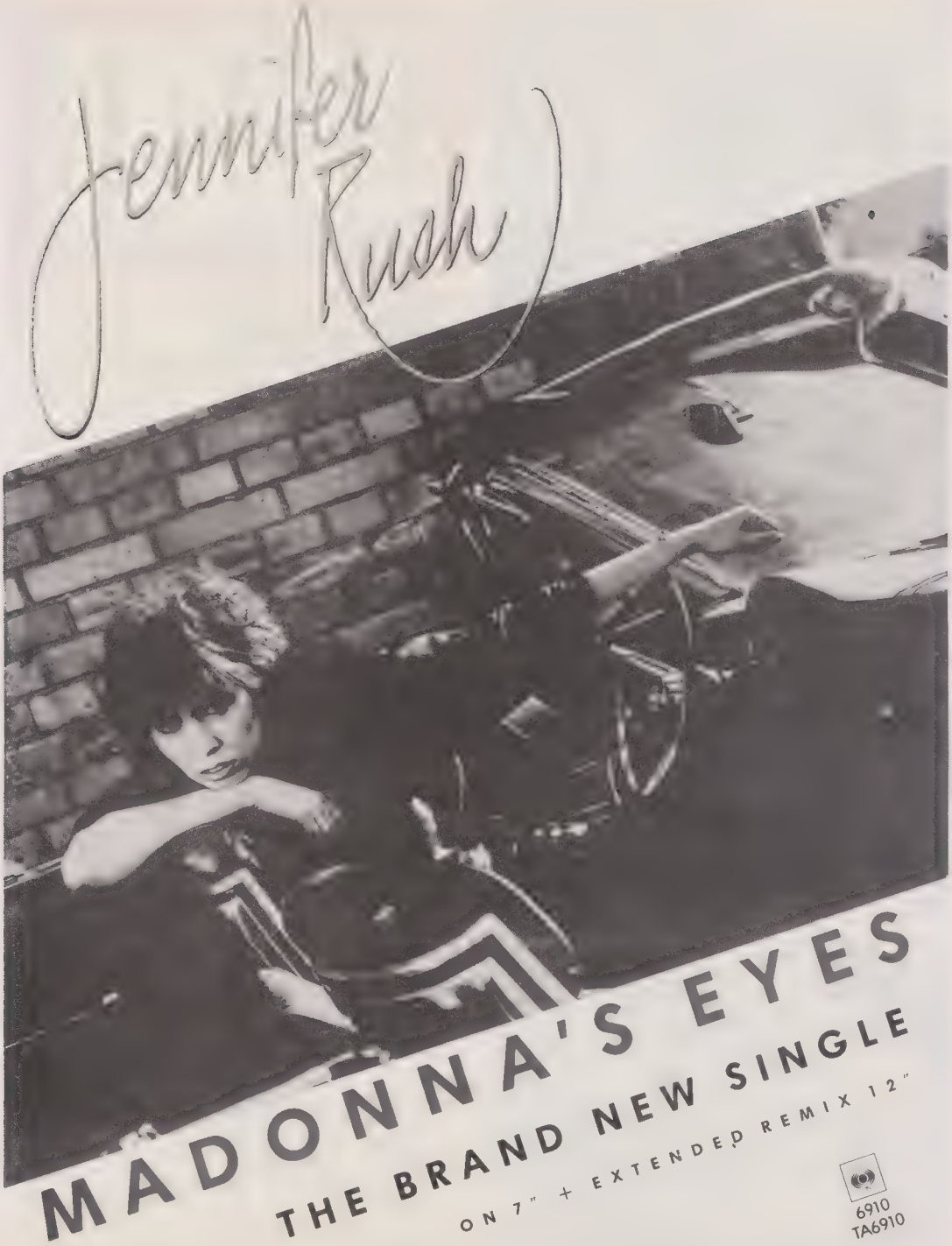
On Chrysalis Records

DON'T WASTE MY TIME


Jennifer Rush
MADONNA'S EYES
THE BRAND NEW SINGLE
ON 7" + EXTENDED REMIX 12"
6910
TA6910

LETTERS

WRITE TO: SMASH HITS, 52-55 CARNABY STREET, LONDON W1V 1PF. THE MOST SPLENDID LETTER GETS A £10 RECORD TOKEN AND A BLACK TYPE TEA TOWEL. EVERYONE ELSE GETS A COMMEMORATIVE PENDANT (i.e. a badge).

Dear **Black "Type",**

Shows how much you know about snooker in point of ackchewel fact as every "fan of the 'green baize' knows the 'People's Champion' is not Dennis "very horrible specs" Taylor (*Letters* February 12) but Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins. By the way (v. interesting non pop fact this), Alex was the first to have a "nickname" between his other names even before your completely brilliant design editor David 'Scotter' Bostock.

Alex 'Nothing Stupid Between My Names' Scott, Colchester

Well, Nothing Stupid, looks like you've got me well and truly *snookered* wiv regards vis one! *SNOOKERED*! Get it? Coo, I ain't laughed so hard since quipsome raconteur Mr Roy Walker related a rib-tickling anecdote about his wife's cooking on the "uproarious" new TV "quiz" "show" *Catchphrase*, l'autre soir. "My wife's not a very good cook," he said (or words to that effect) – got quite a "titter" from the studio "audience", *I* can tell you!

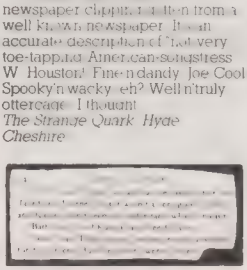
★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★

16	(19)	~~Life's What You Make It~~—Talk Talk
17	(21)	How Will I Know—Whitney Houston
18	(25)	Single—Public Image Ltd
19	(20)	~~Shot In The Dark~~—Ozzy Osbourne
20	(15)	In A Lifetime—Clannad
21	(11)	You Little Thief—Feargal Sharkey

Dear **Black Type,**

Hurrah! Fine n dandy! A newspaper chippie (stolen from a well known newspaper) has an accurate description of "that very toe-tapping American songstress W. Houston." Fine n dandy. Joe Cool. Spooky n wacky, eh? Well n truly ottercage. I thought.

The Strange Quark, Hyde, Cheshire



Gosh. Piglet has even up listening to his "terrifyingly boring journey" LPs and got into the three Norse pop Gods at last. But only Kanga with her tell-tale "Bath first!" exclamation seems to know the truth i.e. Tears For Fears are *really* where it's at!

Winnie The Who, Norwich

Do I get a prize for what I just figured out? You know all the numbers on the back of ARCADIA records? Well, they are the songs themselves. On the back of the 12" of 'The Promise' it says 'Heaven's Eyes' and all around the cover of their LP are the words 'le Bon' Taylor Rhodes. From all this information the numbers on the backs of the 12"s are in a pattern from A-16, B-18, C-20. It goes up in twos until the letter 'T' in which this is number '2' and it ends at '14-2'. add another '2' and you've got 'A'.

Golden Disc, Pontypridd

Rum indeed! I hold in my hand a copy of Ms Sarah Brightman and Mr Steve Harley's ethereal "waxing", "The Phantom Of The Opera" (a current turntable "hit" at Type Towers). On the back of said disc I find the number 42288 28146. Using your "system," I decode the digits . . . *BAAEEADGC*!! Blimey! These are dark forces we're meddling with . . .

I think *Smash Hits* missed the point in its review of the Sex Pistols book *Rebel Rock* (*Review*, 28 January). You stated that there was too much emphasis on 'the punters' and that most of those pictured in the book have 'beards' and don't look much like punks at all', but to my knowledge there is only one bearded gent in the whole book (although his picture occurs no less than seven times). The punters chapter in this brilliant photographic documentary of such a tragic band gives us an insight into what an early punk gig was like and what sort of people attended. To say that the audiences captured in the book don't look like punks is ridiculous – what was a punk *supposed* to look like? When the photos were taken the stereotype punk image of bondage trousers and ripped T-shirts had not yet fully materialised, and punk had yet to become a commercialised industry.

As *Smash Hits* recalls, the idea of punk was something in which the punters could get involved (as the book proves), not a device aimed at commercial success. It's fair enough that the Clash, P.I.L., Damned, Billy Idol are getting into the charts again, but where has that original spark of punk gone? *Rebel Rock* serves as a reminder that the

public and the bands were once on the same level. They should not have been allowed to drift apart again.
The Bear, DREAD POWER COMRADES, Dundee

Dearest **B.T.,**
I was sitting quietly in my room when suddenly I felt 'vibes' coming through into my thick skull. I knew then, that I had to write to you to tell you about a really cosmic experience that happened the other week.
One 'mid-winter's' afternoon I was feeling pretty bored, so I decided to read *Smash Hits*. As I was doing so, *The Smash Hits Scrapbook Diary 1985/86* suddenly 'materialized' into my paws. I opened it and the CRAFT CORNER of the February 1986 page leapt out at me. And there before my eyes was the recipe of the Not at all tasty 'treat' for Shrove Tuesday, 'Disgusting Pancakes'. Immediately I 'beamed' down to la cuisine and beavered about searching for the various ingredients.
When they had all been gathered, I then followed the instructions meticulously. The finished 'pancake' looked absolutely mouth-watering, but I resisted the temptation to eat it and served it up. Sugar Puffs and all, just as instructed, to Scamp (our faithful four-legged friend). I then remembered that I didn't like Twiglets, so I gave them to my brother. Then I went back to la cuisine and found that Scamp had gratefully 'honked up' just about everywhere! Panic. Perhaps you could make a Disgusting Pancake for Mr & Mrs Perkins?
Wixxie, Wool, Dorset

Mr Perkins (typewriter maintenance engineer and the most boring man in the world) writes: 'Pancake Day' or Shrove Tuesday, as it is sometimes known, has not been 'celebrated' in the Perkins household for some years now due to an unfortunate occurence that took place in the vicinity of the kitchen when one morning, in an attempt to "toss" a pancake in the customary fashion, I underestimated the velocity of said culinary mixture, causing slight but permanent damage to a framed portrait of our lovely Princess Diana on her wedding day, much to the annoyance of Mrs Perkins. Pancakes are of French origination. I believe hence the term Crepe Suzette, a phrase most often employed. **(Be off with you, you dreary old git)!**

JOHN LENNON
Specialists in Fitted Kitchens and Bedroom Units
We can plan your kitchen to your own individual size and design. We specialise in sink units, rosewood, formica etc.
Telephone [illegible]

Whilst searching through the Irish Times for the cartoon page, I came across this v. ghostly advertisement. Would you please consult your parapsychologist (Anneka Rice) on what steps I should take from here?
V. Frightened Nik Kershaw Fan, Co. Cork.

Dear **B.T.,**
How dare you? How *dare* you? I actually heard you say all that in sweeties are horrible. Well, I was "fortunate" enough to go on holiday to Canada (unhip "holiday resort" full of gruesome Japanese tourists and polar bears) and while I was in the Eaton Centre (big glass place with squillions of natty shops in it) a large orange "jelly bean" with dead thin brown legs came scuttling towards me and commenced to force jelly beans down my throat. They were passion fruit flavoured (they come in every flavour you can think of and seven more which *are* rather horrible) and tasted 'very nice', so you better take it back, ornight? And if you see a jelly bean walking the streets looking lost point him in my direction. OK?
Luv'n kisses (creep, crawl, record token please)
St Bob's Stubble

Alright, alright, I take it back: all foreign sweeties are *delectable* (just as all Dolly Parton jokes are very funny and all photographs taken by Ms. Koo Stark are of outstanding artistic merit).

I am writing to complain about what *Bitz* said about Aquarians in the January 29 issue.
1) All the most select musicians are Aquarians.
2) Aquarians do *not* carry jugs of water on their heads.
3) Capricorns are pathetic.
Angry Aquarian, Chorley, Lancs

A World Famous Astrologer writes:
Your Stars
SCORPIO (March 28-June 7): Be particularly careful with kitchen scissors this week as they can be quite sharp.
TAURUS (April 19-Dec 25): You were born under the sign of the "bull", therefore you might well have a "Taurus" mug.
GEMINI (Oct 23-Jan 23): Be particularly careful with soup this week as it can be quite hot.
AQUARIUS (Sep 12-Sep 10): Be particularly careful when carrying jugs of water on your head this week as (*That's enough 'Stars', thank you very much. Ed.*)

Paul McCartney
GENERAL DEALER
Suppliers of cleaning Rags
•
SPOT CASH FOR Copper, Wire, Brass, Lead, Alum., Car Radiators and Batteries etc.
•

Dear **Black Type,**
Surely that man McCartney has made *enough* money without having to resort to supplying cleaning rags.
Mourne Observer, Co. Down

Dear Mr **Type,**
I was leafing through my copy of The Poems

LETTERS

Of William Blake" when I shiver me timbers it seemed that this visionary poet of yore prophesised the existence of Duran Duran long before they were sent to plague us in the 80s. Read on and be amazed.

Not only did he publish a book of verse called "Songs From An Island On The Moon" which sounds like the title of a Duran LP or one of their dodgy film-sheet projects, but he also penned the following verse:

Hear then the pride and knowledge I a sailor
His spritsail foresail mainsail and his mizzen
A poor trail man God wot I know none frailer
I know no greater sinner than John Taylor"

So it seems by some strange twist of fate that John Taylor has missed his vocation as a Jolly Jack Tar and that Salty Simon has somehow taken his place. Spookeee or what?
Mad Nad, Liverpool

God wot *indeed*!! And was it not also said W. Blake who "penned" the immortal lines:
Tiger Tiger burning bright
In the forests of the hang on a mo
If I stuck a "bludgeoning" riff on this
I could sell it to hard rock combo Survivor for the Soundtrack of Rocky V in a few hundred years
?
I rather think *not*.

Dear **Black Type,**
In your recent ramblings about Shakespeare (*Letters* 29 January) you failed to mention the fact that William also knew Duran Duran. Note this extract from *The Merchant of Venice* (Act 1, Scene 2):

Nerissa: How say you by the French Lord, Monsieur le Bon?
Portia: God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man.

Obviously Portia wasn't as impressed as Yasmin George Michael's Trusty Rusty Gillette Blue !!

French Lord *indeed*! And was it not also said W. Shakespeare who "quilled" the timeless lines:
Esther Thane Of Rantzen: If music be the food of love, play on!
Old Crone In Street: No can do, ducks, I ain't got me teef in cor my old man can't get enough of it heeheeheeheeheehee
?
I somehow doubt it.

Dear **Black Type,**
I have just seen the BPI Awards and I am disappointed at Mr Tebbit's speech, comment in the British record industry.

Firstly, I realise that he credited the industry as being one of the most prosperous left in Britain but surely he is hampering that progress by the tax put on records at the moment. Mr Tebbit's speech comes at a time when due to education cuts by his government, local councils are unable to employ pompatetic music teachers to teach the basic skills. If Mr Tebbit wants Britain to remain at the forefront of the music industry then there must be more money for the schools from these taxes.

Secondly, as Bob Geldof has pointed out countless times, the government still have not sent the masses of excess food stocks to Ethiopia and what seems to be no extra cost to them. If the government have not done that then surely Mr Tebbit can not whole-heartedly back Bob Geldof.

Mr Tebbit's speech was a good attempt at trying to associate the government with the glamorous music business, so if the government believe in the industry, why are the taxes not spent on the schools and colleges and why is the food not with the starving? Young Conservatives answer me that.
Mike Ramsden, Stoke-on-Trent

I have just left my television set where Noel Edmonds closed the 1986 BPI awards with the words "over the past hour and a half we have helped prove the power the British music industry holds in the world today", or something to that effect.

Do Mr Edmonds and the BPI feel that they have the power to determine nationality? Or can we still assume that place of birth determines one's national identity? Apparently not. U2 were nominated in the Best "British" Group category, yet, to the best of my knowledge, U2 are and always have been Irish. This arises from the fact that all four members of the group come from Dublin which happens to be the capital of Ireland. I challenge any member of the BPI to tell the citizens of Dublin that they are still British, 80 years after they shed blood and rid themselves of that title.

Maybe the BPI feel that Ireland is incapable of giving a group of U2's stature the credibility they deserve. Not so as was clearly visible at the 'Homecoming' concert in Dublin (26/6/85). The group described this concert as one of the highlights of their careers. U2 came home and a nation was proud. What the BPI did at their award ceremony was blatant robbery of a nation's pride, and it must be stopped.
Annette O'Donnell, Co. Donegal, Eire

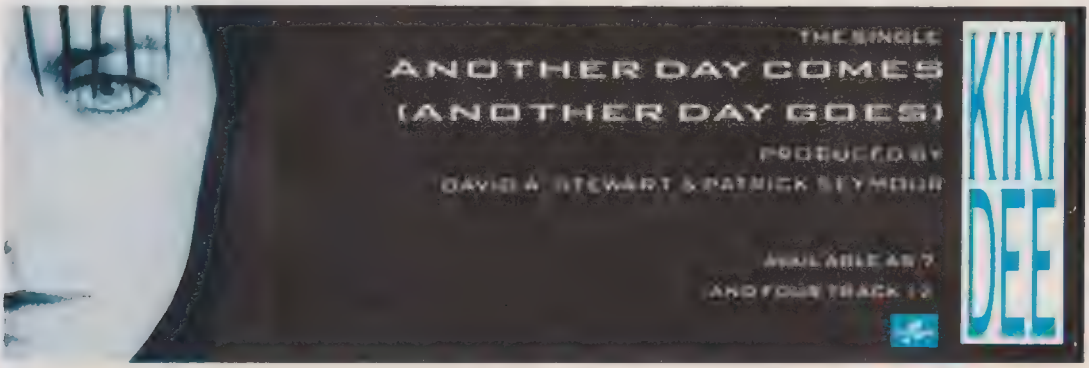
Dearest readers in and out of the country, dear **Black Kite** (or so) – a very special greeting from me to you (sounds a bit Beatled doesn't it?). Here is the latest so-called "Smasher" from a nearly forgotten man, ex-hero of the pop heaven, today he has nearly reached again the level of his youth. Following the story "At The Job Centre" or "Popstar As Last Resort" found in a German-English school book called "A New Profile In English" (how pathetic, but not written by "Moustache" Mercury, the king of exaggeration). I have underlined the so-called "key-words" – replace "work in the evenings" with "singing in a pop group". Best wishes.
Gregor, so-called "so-called", also "King of The Mountains" (not Tarzan Boy), Ramsau (What? – The author), Bavaria, West Germany

Tom Bailey	morning. Mr Taylor. You "1" (tell) me to come back again if I didn't find a job so here I am.
Mr Taylor	Ah, hello, Tom. How long "2" (be, you) unemployed?
Tom Bailey	Since I "3" (leave) school last summer, sir. I "4" (try) for about ten jobs so far but they all "5" (insist + preposition) "6" (me, have) ordinary level GCE. The qualifications "7" I have aren't enough.
Mr Taylor	I can see it's the same old story, Tom. If a youngster "8" (not, pass) his exams at school, he "9" (have) trouble "10" (find) a job. You're an intelligent lad, Tom, why "11" (get, you, not) better qualifications at school?
Tom Bailey	Well, we "12" (not, teach) much, and there "13" (be) about forty in my class. I "14" (not, can) do much homework because I "15" (must) work in the evenings to earn some money. I "16" (have) six brothers and sisters, you know, all younger than me.

Blooming heck!! And who, pray, is "Mr" Taylor? Take this £10 record token (v. useful in Bavaria hawhaw!) and this wondrous Black Type tea towel and never darken my doors again!

Dear **Black Type,**
Remember last year's "brilliant" BPI Awards? Well, on the back of the *Smash Hits* "review" of said Awards (written by one *Neil Tennant!*) there was an advert for Phil Collins' *No Jacket Required* – which was voted the Best Album in *THIS* year's BPI Awards!!!!! Spooky or what?????
Steph, Ickford, Bucks.

What *indeed!* This can mean only two things. 1) Next year's Best Album award will go to *Matterings!?!* 2) Tom Hibbert (who "wrote" *this* year's review) will soon be a member of a chart-topping combo (heaven forfend!)!?! Readers everywhere... (everywhere, that is, except the Kettering branch of *W.H. Smith* – yes, I'm referring to you, "matey", you in the stupid blue cap who's thumbing through Britain's brightest pop magazine going "dear-oh-dear-gawd-strewth-help-us-what-a-bunch-of-bleedin'-nancies" under your breath and getting the pages all wrinkled and dirty – either fork out your 43p (a snip!!) like everyone else or be off with you, my "good" man)... AVANT!!



HOT CHOCOLATE have spent more time on the British Singles Chart than the BEACH BOYS, ABBA and MICHAEL JACKSON.

Q How many weeks in total have they spent on this chart?

ANSWER 225 WEEKS

Q Which is the only group to have a hit single every year from 1970 to 1984 inclusive?

ANSWER HOT CHOCOLATE

THE NEXT HIT SINGLE

HOT CHOCOLATE
HEARTACHE No 9

RAK RECORDS LTD

(featuring STEVE STRANGE)

the debut single

REBEL BLUE ROCKER

AVAILABLE ON 7" AND EXTENDED 12"

EMI

my own way

"I know people probably won't believe it," says John Taylor, "but I've been working really hard." He has, too: directing videos, taking piano lessons, learning all about those complicated synthesiser thingies with loads of knobs on *and* singing for the first time on his new solo single "I Do What I Do". But, discovers Peter Martin, when he does take a rare day off, he likes to curl up in his New York apartment with his girlfriend, a pizza and a naughty video . . .

23 storeys in the sky, John Taylor's New York apartment has a magnificent view. Situated on the fashionable Upper West Side of town, it towers over Central Park, and in the misty distance you can pick out the formidable hulk of the Manhattan skyline.

The inside's not bad either: 50% of the wall space is glass, the rest is all black and chrome and resembles the nerve centre of the USS Enterprise. It's got everything – hi-fi, compact disc, enormous flat-screen TV, video machine, professional "pneumatic" video recorder, and, on the floor, a sound and video camera unit. Swanky. In the kitchen thuds a space-age washing machine, while in the "spare" room beats a DMX drum machine locked into racks of matt black synthesisers and bass guitars.

John's girlfriend Renee Simonsen is lounging about in the bedroom, drying her hair and watching the Marlon Brando Mafia film *The Godfather* on *another* video, while John, in white towelling dressing gown, is wandering around talking to his Mum on the portable "bat" phone – Mrs and Mr Taylor are across the ocean minding their son's *London* flat. I mean, do some people make you sick or what?!

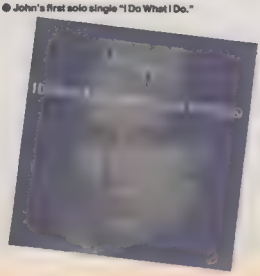
John is taking a rare day off today: "Honestly, it's my first in *ages*," he assures me. "I know people probably won't believe it but I've been working really hard. When I used to come to New York, all I ever did was go to nightclubs and hang out. But now I spend all my days in the studio, then I come home and stay in with Renee. The most exciting thing we ever do is phone out for pizzas . . ."

Strolling back and forth between bedroom and living room, putting on layer after layer of clothing – silky, baggy trousers, silky, baggy shirt, silky, baggy jacket, all bought from a posh shop down the block – John explains just what it is he's been up to in the months since The Power Station and Duran Duran's appearance at Live Aid.

For a start, he's been taking piano lessons. And he's also been learning his way around the memory banks of the new music technology – DMXs, Fairlights etc. – under the tutorship of Jonathan Elias. Elias is a complete whizzkid in this department. He owns a three studio complex in Manhattan that houses the most technologically advanced sound equipment in the world, he's created sound effects for numerous TV ads and films (like *Alien, Blade Runner* and *Altered States*), and it was while he was working on the *A View To A Kill* video that he first met John.

John was greatly impressed with Elias' handiwork and invited him to play on the Duran Duran "View To A Kill" single (he's credited on the sleeve). And once back in New York, with The Power Station dismantled and Duran Duran "on ice", John got in touch with the whizzo soundperson once more. As fate would have it, both were doing well with separate projects in the US film charts (John with a Power Station song on the Arnold Schwarzenegger film *Commando*, Jonathan with the soundtrack for *Jagged Edge*), and so they decided it would be a splendid time to sell themselves to Hollywood as the hottest new soundtrack team in the business. The plan paid off almost immediately when they were commissioned to write some of the soundtrack for *9½ Weeks* starring Mickey "stop-calling-me-the-new-Marlon-Brando-or-I'll-give-you-one-of-my-nigh-legendary-moody-stares" Rourke and Kim Bassinger (from the James Bond film *Never Say Never Again*). *9½ Weeks* has been described as "the biggest budget porn movie since *Last Tango In Paris*", but the scissors of the US censor have taken care of all that saucy nonsense – and, unfortunately, quite a bit of John's music has been cropped in the process. You can hear the unedited track, though, on the B-side of John's very own single, "I Do What I Do", which is a remix of the film instrumental with vocals by J.T. himself. It's the first time he's sung on record – "apart from shouting in the background on 'Wild Boys'" – and very David "I'm-mean-moody-and-restless" Bowie he sounds too.

"I didn't *want* to sing," John stresses. "But it looked like it'd never come out otherwise. I hardly want to push myself as a frontman – I get enough attention from Duran as it is." As well as making his singing debut, John is also trying his hand at video direction for the first time with "I Do What I Do" – as he says, "This single has been a marvellous education for me . . ."



● John's first solo single "I Do What I Do."

● John and Jonathan Elias

In the bedroom, Renee has finished drying her hair and is about to whizz off to another "top modelling assignment". "I'll see you tonight," says John all lovey-dovey like and plants a smacker on her lips. And now, with the "wife" (as he calls her) out of the way, he sits down at last and sticks a cassette in the video. Coo – it's the rather steamy film *Body Heat* starring Kathleen Turner, John's vote for "the most fanciable person in the universe" in the *Smash Hits* poll. He turns the sound down and, when he can tear his attention away from Ms Turner wearing not very many clothes, he continues the saga of his latest career moves.

With Simon now back on (presumably not *in*) the briny on his Round The World yacht thingie, there's still a few months before Duran get back together. The group have a studio in London booked for June 1, but John has a couple of other projects with Jonathan to squeeze in when he can. Next in the pipeline is some music for the new Rosanna Arquette (*Desperately Seeking Susan*) film, *Eight Million Ways To Die* – "that probably won't go into production for ages so we'll probably finish it *after* the Duran LP" – and then there's a new Ridley Scott (director of *Alien* and *Blade Runner*) movie – which probably won't get started for ages either: "It's *like* that, the film industry," says John. "Everything seems to *take* ages to get done – if it gets done at *all*. The more money involved the weirder and slower things get, . . ."

The *Body Heat* video comes to an end and before John has a chance to feed something even saucier into the player – bong! – Jonathan Elias arrives carrying treats – a bottle of wine and some *Haagendazs* ice cream. "Chocolate chip – my favourite!" squeals John, leaping to his feet to greet his partner. They get on famously, these two: "We're hardly out of one another's sight these days," says John. Jonathan agrees: "I'm sure that Renee sometimes thinks there is something going *on* between us." Crumbs! So what does the future hold for the two collaborators? "The possibilities for us are limitless," reckons Elias. "As yet this thing is untested. It could go anywhere. We'll try anything if it sounds fun." But where does this leave Duran Duran? "Well . . ." John composes his reply. "The last thing we want to get back into is that album-tour-album-tour syndrome. It just takes all the excitement, all the adventure out of things. But we *are* still a band and I think we're all excited in getting back together. Which doesn't mean I won't be getting back together with Jonathan too . . ."

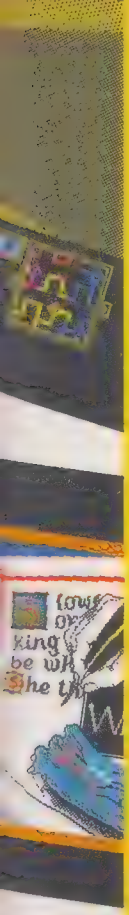
Renee returns, her day's work done, and we settle back for a cosy evening in front of the telly – nothing rude, mind. We plump for watching the Country Music Awards hosted by the bloke out of *Knight Rider*. And mid-way through, John decides he wants to do something *very* exciting. So he phones out for pizzas. . .

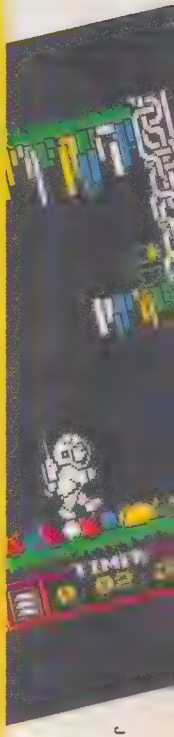
JOHN TAYLOR

THE NEW ZX SPECTRUM 128 CAN HANDLE HARDER GAMES. WHETHER YOU CAN IS A DIFFERENT MATTER.

John Lewis Power City W H Smith and other good compu

SLOT A CASSETTE IN AND GET READY FOR A REAL PASTING THE NEW SPECTRUM S 128K MEMORY WILL SHOW YOU JUST HOW TOUGH IT IS TO THRASH DALEY THOMPSON AT HIS OWN GAME ROUGHLY THREE TIMES AS TOUGH OR IT LL KEEP YOU PINNED TO THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT PLAYING A GAME CALLED NEVER ENDING STORY IT TAKES THREE TIMES AS LONG AND BECAUSE WE WANT YOU TO SEE JUST HOW BRILL ITS GRAPHICS ARE, AND HOW ITS NEW SOUND SYNTHESISER PLAYS MUSIC AND SPINE CHILLING SOUND EFFECTS, WE RE GIVING BOTH TITLES AWAY FREE WHEN YOU BUY IT BY THE WAY THERE ARE THOUSANDS MORE IF EVER YOU DO BEAT THE PANTS OFF THOSE TWO





Q W E R J K L Z X C V B N M

Marks of Sinclair Research Ltd

sinclair

The Damned
Eloise

EVERY NIGHT I'M THERE
I'M ALWAYS THERE
SHE KNOWS I'M THERE AND HEAVEN KNOWS
I HOPE SHE GOES (ELOISE)
I FIND IT HARD TO REALISE
THAT LOVE WAS IN HER EYES
IT'S DYING NOW
SHE KNOWS I'M CRYING NOW

CHORUS
AND EVERY NIGHT I'M THERE
I BREAK MY HEART TO PLEASE ELOISE
ELOISE

YOU KNOW I'M ON MY KNEES YEAH
I SAID PLEASE
YOU'RE ALL I WANT SO HEAR MY PRAYER
MY PRAYER

MY ELOISE IS LIKE THE STARS THAT PLEASE THE NIGHT
THE SUN THAT MAKES THE DAY
THAT LIGHTS THE WAY (ELOISE)
AND WHEN THAT STAR GOES BY
I'LL HOLD IT IN MY HANDS AND CRY
HER LOVE WAS MINE
YOU KNOW MY SUN WILL SHINE

REPEAT CHORUS

YOU'RE ALL I WANT YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR MY PRAYER
MY PRAYER

MY ELOISE I'D LOVE TO PLEASE HER
I'D LIKE TO CARE BUT SHE'S NOT THERE
AND WHEN I FIND YOU
I'D BE SO KIND YOU'D WANT TO STAY
I KNOW YOU'D STAY

AND AS THE DAYS GROW OLD
THE NIGHTS GROW COLD
I WANNA HOLD HER NEAR TO ME
YOU KNOW SHE'S DEAR TO ME
AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL
AND TAKE AWAY THIS LONELY HELL
I'M ON MY KNEES TO MY ELOISE

REPEAT CHORUS

YOU ARE MY LIFE SO HEAR MY PRAYER
YOU ARE THE PRIZE I KNOW YOU'RE THERE

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE
YOU'RE ALL I WANT YOU GOTTA HEAR MY PRAYER
YEAH YEAH YEAH
YOU'RE ALL I NEED BUT YOU'RE NOT THERE
OH NO YOU'RE NOT THERE
NO NO NO NO
YEAH YEAH YEAH YEAH YEAH
MY ELOISE
OH I'D LOVE TO PLEASE HER
OH MY ELOISE
OH MY ELOISE OH MY ELOISE
DON'T LIE TO ME
I SAID NO NO NO NO
MY ELOISE
AD LIB TO FADE

WORDS AND MUSIC BY PAUL RYAN
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION CARLIN MUSIC CORP
ON MCA RECORDS

This Time — Bryan Ada

I think about her all the time
She's my fantasy
An image burning in my mind
Calling out to me
While my imagination's running wild
Yeah things are getting clearer oh

Chorus
This time everything is alright
No way she's gonna get away
This time everything is easy
Any day I'm gonna make her mine

I thought of every word I'd say
Give or take a few
But she turns and slowly walks away
What do I have to do
Hey turn up your radio
Oh there's something I want you to know yeah

Repeat chorus

Yeah I'm gonna make her mine
This time

It's hard to [illegible]
And I've [illegible]
But the [illegible]
Doubts are [illegible]
Yeah I'm [illegible]

Repeat [illegible]

Diana Ross ▲ Chain Reaction

You took a mystery and made me want it
You got a pedestal and put me on it
You made me love you out of feeling nothing
Something that you do ooh
And I was there not dancing with anyone
You took a little then you took me over
You set your mark on stealing my heart away
Crying trying anything for you

I'm in the middle of a chain reaction (chain reaction)
You give me all the after midnight action
I wanna get you where I can let you make all that love to me
I'm on a journey for the inspiration
To anywhere and there ain't no salvation
Need you to get me nearer to you
So you can set me free

We talk about love love love
We talk about love
We talk about love love love
We talk about love

You make me tremble when your hand goes lower
You taste a little then you swallow slower
Nature has a way of yielding treasure
Pleasure made for you
Oh you gotta plan your future is on the run
Shine a light for the whole world over
You never find your love if you hide away
Crying dying all you gotta do is

Get in the middle of a chain reaction (chain reaction)
You get a medal when you're lost in action
I wanna get your love all ready for sweet sensation

Instant radiation
You let me hold you for the first explosion
We get a picture of our love in motion
My arms will cover my lips will smother you
With no more left to say

We talk about love love love
We talk about love

Let me hold you for the first explosion
Arms will cover you
All you gotta do

(Get in the middle of a chain reaction)
A chain reaction
(You get a medal when you're lost in action)
Don't pass me by
(I wanna get your love all ready)
Your love with me
(Sweet sensation instant radiation)
Oh oh
(You let me hold you for the first explosion)
A first explosion
(We get a picture of our love in motion)
Don't let me down
(Arms will cover my lips will smother)
Smother our love boy
(With no more left to say)
All you gotta do is
Ad lib to fade

Words and music by B. R. & M. Gibb
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On Capitol Records

Midge Ure ▲ Wastelands

THE BOY IS LISTENING TO THOSE RECORDS FROM THE PAST
HE WANTS TO MAKE THEM LAST
FOR THEY MAKE HIM FEEL ALIVE
THEY ARE THE VOICES OF THE FACES ON THE WALL
HE LISTENS TO THEM ALL
HANGS ON EVERY TALE THEY TELL
KNOWS THEM ALL AND THEIR LIFE STORIES
SHARES THEIR PAIN AND SHARES THEIR GLORIES

ONE DAY HE EVEN CUT THEIR NAMES UPON HIS SKIN
THEY MEAN THAT MUCH TO HIM
FOR THEM HE'D TAKE THE TEST
HIS BEDROOM WINDOW OPENS TO THE EVENING AIR
THE FOX IS IN HIS LAIR
THE VOLUME OF HIS SYSTEM IS FULL ON
BUT THE NEIGHBOURS MOAN AND THE PARENTS CALL
THIS ANGRY NOISE IS THE MUZAK OF THE WASTELANDS

(WASTELANDS) THE WASTELANDS (WASTELANDS)

THE BOY IS DRESSING IN THE FASHION OF THE DAY
THE KIDS ALL DRESS THAT WAY
YOU CAN TELL THEM ANYWHERE

Photo: Mike Pulland

THE BOY LOOKS OUT AND SEES HIS FRIENDS ARE WAITING THERE
IN THE COLD ELECTRIC GLARE
OF THOSE LAMPS THAT MAKE YOU THINK THAT NIGHT IS DAY
THEY DRAG THEIR LUSTS INTO YOUR SIGHT
WITH SHOUTS AND SCREAMS THEY MEET THE NIGHT
THEY BLOCK YOUR WAY IN TWOS AND FOURS
IN UNIFORMS FROM CITY STORES
THEY'RE CLOSING IN WHO KNOWS THE SCORE
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
A MARTYR'S BLOOD IS NOURISHING THE WASTELANDS

(WASTELANDS)
YES IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
THE MARTYR'S BLOOD IS NOURISHING THE WASTELANDS
(WASTELANDS) THE WASTELANDS (WASTELANDS) ON WASTELANDS
(WASTELANDS)
YES IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
THE MARTYR'S BLOOD IS NOURISHING THE WASTELANDS
(WASTELANDS) ON WASTELANDS (WASTELANDS)

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R E

SINGLES REVIEWED BY DAVE GAHAN OF DEPECHE MODE

THE PET SHOP BOYS: Love Comes Quickly (Parlophone)
This has a good chorus and it's *very* catchy – a good follow-up to "West End Girls". I hope they have a crappy looking video again because I liked that – Jonathan King slagged it off as cheap and horrible, the most appalling video ever made, but *I* thought it was simple, straight to the point, and I really liked the moody guy in it. It's funny reviewing a single sung by someone who used to interview us – I *should* be getting my own back. The runner-up single of the fortnight, I suppose.

SIGUE SIGUE SPUTNIK: Love Missile F1-11 (Parlophone)
This is basically electro-rock'n'roll, very much like The Silicon Teens, the band who first introduced me to electro-pop. It's got some good sound effects but I'm not sure whether it's worth the fuss – it's all a bit suspect. I suppose the "shock value" is quite good but it doesn't shock *me*. Their haircuts are pretty good, though – a lot of effort's gone into *them*.

SINGLE OF THE FORTNIGHT

SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES: Candyman (Wonderland)
Siouxsie's not a "singer" like Aretha Franklin but she makes great use of what she's got and she always sounds exciting. She sings with a lot of *sex* – that's what I like. This is a *great* Banshees record. Obviously they've got a bit of a "formula", but I like their sound. I used to go and see them quite a lot when I was younger, when I was a punk rocker.

ARETHA FRANKLIN: Another Night (Arista)
She's got a great voice, but I preferred her when she was just history. When these people make comebacks they tend to return a lot blander. The song's not very good: it sounds like you've heard it a million times before.

REDSKINS: The Power Is Yours. . . (London)
Leave it out, X! Get back to journalism! *(The Redskins singer, Chris Dean, is also a journalist under the pseudonynm X. Moore.)* He *talks* about things better than he *sings* them. I agree, basically with all his socialist values but this won't convert anyone to the cause – it will turn people *away*.

STEVIE WONDER: Overjoyed (Motown)
The sleeve is atrocious and the song just sounds like any other Stevie Wonder ballad: bland, safe and boring – and you know there's *bound* to be a harmonica break any moment. It doesn't move any emotion in my body at all – I'd rather smooch to Siouxsie & The Banshees. It's not as bad as "I Just Called To Say I Love You" but it's *pretty* bad. I like the bird noises, though.

GRACE JONES: Love Is The Drug (Island)
A re-release: now that she's switched labels, her old record companies are churning out as much old stuff as possible. "Pull Up To The Bumper" was good, but I prefer the original "Love Is The Drug" by Roxy Music – this version's a bit "new wave".

JOHN TAYLOR: I Do What I Do (Parlophone)
I'm sure that Duran Duran like Depeche Mode's music as much as we like theirs – not a lot – but this is a totally different sound to Duran. The idea's quite groovy and the singing's not bad either. In fact, it's quite *good*, I suppose. Is it from a film? It *is*! Everything's from a film these days.

D.C. LEE: Come Hell Or Water High (CBS)
I didn't like "See The Day" – it was a bit of a rip-off of an old Earth Wind & Fire song – but her voice sounds better this time. The music still sounds fairly boring, though; there's no real *hook*.

KING DREAM CHORUS & HOLIDAY CREW: King Holiday (Mercury)
Yet another benefit record *(see Bitz for details)* Although I sometimes question the motives of the people who do these charity things, this is admirable. It's trying to get across to people what Martin Luther King was about and that's good because a lot of kids don't *know* about him and they *should* be educated. In fact, they should be educated in this sort of history at school – the history of the Normans is a load of crap. You probably get a lot more information from the sleeve than you do from listening to the record, though, because it's a bit bland and boring.

NANA MOUSKOURI: I Have A Dream (Phonogram)
She still looks exactly the same as she used to when I was about five. Do I *have* to listen to this? Oh well, every record deserves one listen – but after you've listened to *this* once you can smash it. This is an Abba song, isn't it? She's got a nice voice . . . but I don't like it: it probably appeals to 80-year-old grannies.

PRINCE: Kiss (WEA)
The thing about Prince is that he *always* grooves – apart from that terrible song "Purple Rain" which was crap. I thought the last album, "Around The World In A Day", was a lot better than the "Purple Rain" album anyway – it wasn't as commercial but it was *much* groovier. There's a bit of James Brown in this new single – but I don't think it's a *great* single. It's a little too stodgy.

KATE BUSH: Hounds Of Love (EMI)
I really liked "Running Up That Hill" because it didn't sound like *anything* else that was on the radio. I'm sure it was so successful because there's a lot of people out there who are just sick of most current pop music. She's got a really good voice and she's really sexy sounding – rock'n'roll was all about sex originally, and I think people forget that. I don't know if this is a particularly good single commercially – but then I can never work out what *is*, anyway.

AMAZULU: Things The Lonely Do (Island)
I'm sure there are *millions* of *worse* bands than Amazulu – I just can't *think* of one. What was that last hit they had? "Don't You Just Know It"? With that terrible bit in the middle – "ah ah ah ah"? That was *horrible* – this is just totally boring. I actually *prefer* "Don't You Just Know It" – at least that was *"wacky"*, like The Belle Stars. *This* is "let's be serious". It's the sort of thing I expect to hear in a fairground. I like fairgrounds, by the way. I used to work on a speedway in a fair when I was young and I thought about running away with them when I was about 14 *(reminisces in this fashion for several decades – Ed)*. . .

ALBUMS

THE ICICLE WORKS: Seven Singles Deep (Beggars Banquet)
They might well have called this "the greatest hits" if. . .well, the thing is that after a couple of successes with hippie-ishly named songs like "Love Is A Wonderful Colour", Liverpool's Icicle Works have had a truly *remarkable* string of flops. Seven 12" remixes of their singles are gathered up here and, quite frankly, you can see why they missed the boat. They sing these grandiose songs about love, but they're so all-over-the-place *and* over the top that you can't take them seriously, *ever*. And their "cult following" has probably got all this lot anyway. **(4 out of 10)**
William Shaw

SOPHIA GEORGE: Fresh (Jetstar)
Anyone who says that "Girlie Girlie" wasn't a completely loveable single and without a doubt one of the best reggae singles for years gets my big brother coming around to see them after his karate class, OK? But, apart from that song, the rest of what we've got here is just run-of-the-mill "lovers' rock" (technical reggae term for very dippy songs) and chug-along-heard-it-all-somewhere-before stuff. Pity really. **(5 out of 10)**
William Shaw

DOUBLE: Double (Polydor)
Yes, the finest thing to come out of Zurich since the Swiss Roll (which isn't Swiss, anyway), Double release their first British album with "Captain Of Her Heart" (included here) still lolling about the charts. Some very "laid back" and restrained vocals, a lot of gentle guitar, piano and saxophone all give the impression that Double's sort of music would be best suited to a sleazy old jazz club in the early hours of the morning, and, apart from a couple of dodgy tracks ("Urban Nomads" is particularly worth avoiding), it all re-affirms the fact that Double are really rather good. **(7 out of 10)**
Simon Brathwaite

THE COSTELLO SHOW: King Of America (F. Beat)
On the cover of this, Elvis Costello's new LP, he looks sad, old and rather serious. And on the record inside he sounds pretty similar. These days he's almost completely abandoned the soulful pop he always used to dabble in, instead larking about with rock'n'roll, folk and country & western. The trouble is that, in nearly all the songs, he's far too busy cramming in lots of clever complicated phrases and pessimistic views to actually remember putting a tune in. Only a couple of songs - "The Sleep Of The Just" and "Little Palaces" really stand out – still, probably enough to make his fans happy though I doubt it will win him any new ones. **(7 out of 10)**
Chris Heath

THE GO-BETWEENS: Liberty Belle And The Black Diamond Express (Beggars Banquet)
The Go-Betweens are another one of those bands like Lloyd Cole, The Smiths and Prefab Sprout who mix slightly complicated, wordy lyrics with slightly complicated but very hummable pop tunes. The main difference is that, although they've been releasing records a lot longer than those three, they've never really had any success. I doubt whether this will do too much to change that – the catchiest song, "Spring Rain", has already flopped as a single – but this *is* rather good, even if one of the songs is called "Palm Sunday (On Board The S.S. Within)". **(8 out of 10)**
Chris Heath

ALED JONES: Where E'er You Walk (10)
They tried to put *me* in a choir once so I had to fake chicken pox. Dear *me* – there's something not "quite right" about this fairy-light type of singing, I reckon. Perhaps *you* like it – but if you *do*, be warned. There's none of the semi-"pop" of Aled's recent hit on this LP – just a lot of "classical" stuff mostly sung in Welsh. It's all very "nice" – not *nearly* as fearful as Bonnie Langford singing "Good Ship Lollipop" at the age of four, for instance – but rather "creepy" all the same. He's a grand nipper but I'm afraid I must pass. **(Pass)**
Tom Hibbert

THE BANGLES: In A Different Light (CBS)
On stage the Bangles usually "deliver" a not very "tight" set indeed – i.e. completely out of tune and very, very loud. On "record", however, they're altogether more polished – and hurray for that. With their urbane harmony singing and spangling guitars, the girls make a *wonderful* noise – romantic, reminiscent of the *best* '60s pop, jangly and *almost* exciting at times. The only slight problem is that all their best songs – "September Gurls", "Manic Monday" – are written by other people. Never mind. **(7 out of 10)**
Tom Hibbert

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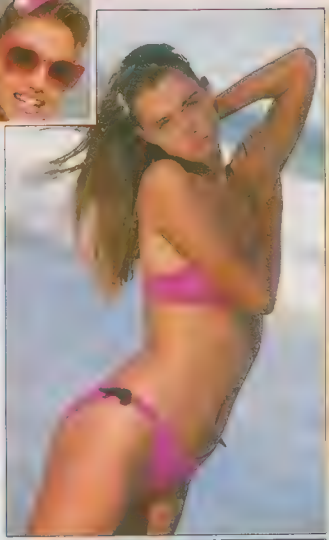

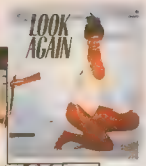

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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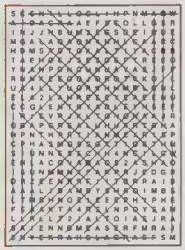

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Inevitably some of the show still seems slightly makeshift – take one distinctive solo singer, add a quantity of experienced professional musicians, a few new songs and a couple of well-known "oldies" and Twingo Bingo! – an instant concert. Some songs, like "A Good Heart" or "Listen To Your Father", actually benefit from this beefier, bouncier treatment, but give Feargal a good strong song and a lot of the

A rather large girl escapes onto the stage, plants a kiss on Feargal's cheek and scampers off again. . .

razzamatazz seems like so much unnecessary baggage. However, Feargal himself does his very best to overcome this: coaxing the audience into action, bouncing around the stage, teasing the eight musicians and play-acting with the two razor sharp girl backing singers, climbing onto the giant loudspeaker things like Bono to make someone's evening by waving to them, and generally never giving less than one hundred percent.

The high point of the evening comes during the impassioned encore of the soul "classic" "When A Man Loves A Woman", when a rather large girl escapes onto the stage, plants a kiss on Feargal's cheek and scampers off again. Feargal, true to form, never misses a note . . .

. . . "Did you have a good time?" enquires a tremulous Irish voice from the stage – and it is answered by a huge roar of approval. Of *course* we did.

Ian Cranna

Photo: Andrew Catling

Feargal "displaying" a "tight ass" and getting his shoes polished into the bargain.

WITH LOVE FROM MANCHESTER

THE SMITHS/NEW ORDER/THE FALL

LIVERPOOL

Quite why it should be Mancunian acts rallying to the support of Liverpool Council rather than local Liverpudlian ones, nobody seems to know. But then it doesn't really matter – Liverpool's "radical left" council are being sued by the Government for *not* making massive cuts in jobs and services and *not* implementing huge rises in rents and rates. They've set up a £100,000 legal fund appeal – and tonight's benefit show "With Love From Manchester" should help . .

New Order come on first. For a bunch of so-called "doomy, gothic intellectuals" they have a surprising amount of headbangers with beer-bellies as fans. I mean, the sight of a thousand or so blokes pogoing like mad to a song whose main "hook" line is, "oh oh, I couldn't bear the thought of you" is *very* weird. After a handful of very long versions of unannounced songs, they finish with their "angst" anthem "Love Will Tear Us Apart" and they're off.

For the next two hours The Fall, punk-poet John Cooper-Clarke,

For a bunch of so-called "doomy, gothic intellectuals" New Order have a surprising amount of headbangers with beer-bellies as fans.

Margi Clarke (no relation to John, but star of the film *Letter To Brezhnev*) and Deputy Leader of the Council Derek Hatton (the small one on *Spitting Image* with the goggly eyes) appear on stage to a warmish reception.

Last on (or so we think) are The Smiths. It only seems like yesterday when they were popping up on *Top Of The Pops* with their perky, post-punk pop. Morrissey waving gladiolas in the air and daubing "Will You Marry Me?" on his flat, white chest. But those days are sadly gone, and tonight Morrissey looks embarrassingly self-conscious, the band very nervy, and all their best songs – from "This Charming Man" to "How Soon Is Now" – are conspicuous by their absence. Instead we get most of their new LP, The Queen Is Dead" and the best bits of "Meat Is Murder."

Things now go from dismal to v. dismal: after The Smiths have shuffled away, Bernard from New Order, a couple of The Fall, The Redskins and The Lloyd Collection shuffle on to perform a version of Bob Dylan's ancient whiner "Maggie's Farm" (also a single by The Lloyd Collection, royalties from which go to the council). But they spend so much time faffing around setting up their equipment that the audience, already peeved by a weedy Smiths' set, and no encores, start to show their annoyance. "We want Morrissey . . we want Morrissey!" they chant, the people at the front start gobbing and someone chucks a beer can. The makeshift group manage a few notes before a million more cans hurtle towards the stage though Bernard from New Order carries on defiantly. Most of the audience start making for the exits and an agitated Margi Clarke rushes on stage with a plea to let the group play the song. No-one listens, no-one seems to care and the title of the concert just seems like a bad joke.

Peter Martin

"Yis one's a really long song wiv a funny title and we're not telling you what it is ha ha. . ." Two blokes from frizzling pop combo New Order.

A councillor and a film star on stage at a pop concert? Car, 1986 ok? It's a rare old year.

Morrissey "I'm not saying I'm thin but I have to take a bookmark to bed with me" – The Smiths.

Mark E Smith – The Fall.

Uuuuurrrgh! Help! Mum! Oh, . . it's John Cooper-Clarke? Phew! . . thought it was Bob Dylan for a second. . .

THE B.P.I. AWARDS

While *you* were watching the awards ceremony on TV the other week, a select few music biz "nobs" were there in person at a big London hotel, nibbling bits of salmon, guzzling free booze, gossiping and picking up the odd award. People like Wham!, Tears For Fears, Phil Collins, Howard Jones, Go West, Alison Moyet, Tom Hibbert. . . Tom *who?* Oh, actually he's the one from *Smash Hits* in the Mr Byrite suit (£19.99), leather bowtie and Um Bongo-stained notebook chatting to Dracula. *What?!*

Crushed up behind steel barricades outside the Grosvenor House Hotel, the massed hordes of pop star spotters are becoming distinctly disgruntled. For one thing, it's the coldest February night in London for 40 years; for another, none of the smartly-dressed nobs filing past and into the hotel foyer seem to be terribly famous. Look! Here comes **Kenney Jones**, drummer of The Who. Who? Look! Here comes celebrated actress Ms **Rula Lenska**! Who? Look! Here comes me! Who?? "Huh!" tuts a cross girl from the crowd. "And *that* ain't nobody *neither*!" Her autograph book remains empty. . .

Hard cheese – all the truly glistering guests have chosen to sneak in the back. This is indeed a wise decision – for stepping through the front doors, the very first thing one encounters is the probing microphone of **Steve** "Knock Your Block Off" **Blacknell**. Oh *no*! "So, ladies, who have you got your money on tonight?" The "zany" TV "personality" has cornered **Bananarama**, poor things, so I move swiftly on upstairs following in the footsteps of. . . good lord! Is it tousle-topped millionaire composer **Andrew Lloyd Webber** striding in front of me? No, it is *not*, as a matter of fact: it's his lesser-known brother **Julian** who plays the cello a bit. "Hallo Julian," I quip. "Oh, hurrm, aah, hello," he replies plummily and sidles off to lose himself in the throng.

And *what* a throng! The bar is jam-packed with "top" music industry persons – men with beards and cigars, ladies with "glamorous" gowns and lashings of make-up and. . . I do not recognise these people. Hang on, though – *there's* a familiar face. Great heavens! It's **Bryan Ferry** in lustrous bib, tucker and suave bow tie. How resplendent he looks. He always does. "Hallo Bryan," I quip. "Oh, hurrm, aah, hello," he replies casting his gaze about the room. "Why is everyone dressed up like me?" It's wall-to-wall dinner jackets as far as the eye can see. There's salmon on the menu, there's a Conservative minister on the bill – cor, ain't it posh, Mum? Ain't it quaint? Come with me, won't you, into the ballroom where the evening's pop festivities are about

Photo LF

● Bryan Ferry! He's so suave (usually).

to commence . .

Here we sit with all the super soaraway journalists at the press table in the balcony. We're a million miles away from the stage (on which people we can hardly see are making speeches we can hardly hear – was it any good on the telly?) and so instead of trying to follow the "action", we scour the tables below for rich and famous household names. Let us see now. . . Corks! Who's that in the Australian bush-whacker's hat and most distasteful shirt ever conceived by man? Could it be? Yus, it's **George Michael** with his "pal" Andrew, skulking and sulking in the darkness. Hoop-la – once they have collected their "special" award from Tory skinhead **Norman** "on-yer-bike" **Tebbit** they'll be a-whooshing off into the night never to be heard of again. Rorks! Who's that in the garish Harlequin two-piece and disgusting kipper tie? Could it be? Yus, it's **Howard Jones**. Huppity-hup – once he's delivered his weeny "speech", he'll be away too – whisking the v. pregnant Jan home to bed. And who's that with the sparkling. . . oh, it's **Elaine Page**. Time, I think, to "wash my hands. . ."

Imagine the scene. There you are in the gentleman's toilet minding your own business when this little chap comes in, stands next to you and starts telling you what a big swizzle everything is because he wanted to get Madonna's autograph but Madonna isn't *here* and. . . Crumbs! If it isn't world-famous choral superstar **Aled Jones**! Blimey! I wander out into the corridor to compose my thoughts and – bump! – straight into an aged, crag-faced gent in sober grey suit. Do my eyes deceive me, or is this world-famous croaker from the U.S. of A. **Huey Lewis**? The very same! Quite a matey geezer is Huey, as I soon discover. He seems a trifle bemused about tonight's proceedings – he's not too sure quite why he has won an award and he is *thoroughly puzzled* by Norman Tebbit: "Who *was* that guy?" he asks huskily, "He looked like Dracula. . ."

A tall, pallid fellow with startling raven hair strolls our way: "Have you met my good friend **Charlie Sexton**?" enquires Huey and – boom! – I am shaking hands with the 17-year-old-boy-genius-and-future-of-rock'n'roll in person! Blimey! "These occasions are, well, they're okay," says Charlie "but they kinda give awards to the wrong people, y'know?" Like Huey Lewis, I jest wittily? "No, like Kate Bush – I think she is *great*. She should have got something but. . ." A slight, balding figure trundles past, distracting my attention – for it's not *any* old slight, balding figure trundling past, it's. . . **Phil Collins**, winner tonight of not one, not one-and-a-half, but *two* awards. Cripes! "Hallo Phil," I quip. "Ta-ra," grunts our homely hero. And he is gone. . . "Hey! I thought you were talking to ME!" snaps C. Sexton, placing his hands around my throat. . . Americans, eh?. . . Why, here comes another one – a tiny cove in a denim jacket – unless I'm greatly mistaken, it's **Nils** "boing boing" **Lofgren**. Coo! Nils has just been on stage accepting an award

● Everyone else is in formal bib n tucker – but not Howard. "Haw haw, I m a bit of a webel, aren t I Jan?"

Photo LFI

Photo Transmitic

● Bob Paula and some old cloakroom attendant. . . oh, sorry, it's Roger Daltrey of The "Who"!

on behalf of **Bruce** "who-sadly-can't-be-with-us-tonight" **Springsteen**; Nils feels pretty "honoured" by this, actually; and, he tells me "confidentially", he wants to go on playing guitar with Bruce forever and ever and *ever* because he thinks that Bruce is the absolute TOPS! Well, I'll be blowed! This calls for a drink, so come with me, won't you, to the "exclusive" celebrity bar up on the 6th floor or thereabouts. . .

Photo LFI

● Charlie Sexton – the future of rock n roll dentistry.

Making my way to the lifts, I am accosted by a couple of wizzly old blokes asking where the "khazi" might be. Recognising them as **Francis Rossi** and **Rick Parfitt** of world-famous boogie team Status Quo. I send them off in the wrong direction – and next – swoosh! – who might this be wafting out of the elevator? Goodness! It's **Alison Moyet** who greets me in chummy fashion and then relates some awful news about her chickens. They all died. "Oh, I do miss them," she says

Photo: Feature Flash

● Andrew! Dracula! A jolly swagman who's lost his shirt! It's all go, innit?

Photo: LFI

● Noel looks embarrassed as Elton makes fun of his beard.

Photo: Ilpo Musto

● Is it? Yus – Curt of Tears For Fears and thingie of Go West – *together*! Blimey!

Photo: Steve Fenton

● Huey Lewis remembers his tie pin but forgets the tie. Midge remembers his tie but forgets to shave (urgh).

Photo: Tim Gilesh

● These men have just been voted Best British Newcomers. They are "thrilled", quite frankly.

Photo: Jo Devon

● "Har har har hee hee. . .we WON!!!" Curt and Roland look "well" "chuffed".

Photo: Jo Devon

● Phil "I win lots and lots of awards even though I looks like Neil Kinnock and my jacket's a bit horrible" Collins.

Photo: Ilpo Musto

● The Best Female Artiste. The Best Producer. Ain't it quaint?

Photo: Colorific

● David Cassidy and Paul "wonky bowtie" Young.

Photo: LFI

● *"This* is how I invented rock'n'roll. . ." Cliff Richard and his invisible harp.

mournfully, "so if you hear of any chickens going cheap, do let us know, won't you? Must fly – toodle-oo lover!" Shiver me timbers!

Moments later and here we are in the pop toffs' snug with **Mike** "Smitty" **Smith**, **Sarah Green** and the gang. Glasses are chinking, conversation is "buzzing" and there's rather a lot of kissing going on over there in the corner: "oooh con*gratula*tions Richard kissykisskiss isn't it brilliant moi-*suuumack* con*gratula*tions Peter isn't it *su*pah. . ." Winners of the Best British Newcomers award, **Go West** are puckering up for their many well-wishers and, twixt smacks, they tell me their

Photo: Ilpo Musto

● Alf *laughs* at death! (All her chickens have just snuffed it).

"feelings". . . Richard feels pretty "thrilled", quite frankly, while Peter feels pretty "chuffed", quite frankly. But "at the end of the day" it's not awards, it's music that really counts and publicity is all very well but showbiz "razzmatazz" is pretty meaningless, basically, because at the end of the day it's the music that really counts and. . . kissykisskiss moi-*suuuuuumackkk* . . . Mercy me! Recording artistes, eh? Here's **Midge Ure** nattering on about how the music industry's becoming like a "global village" or something while **Curt Smith**'s telling me in one ear how he just bumped into Norman Tebbit who seems "alright" and *Mrs* Curt Smith's confessing in the other that, on the whole, she'd prefer to be at home with the pussycats. "Oh, hurm, aah, hello," quips pop's Mr Loquacious, **Paul Hardcastle**, and blow me if I'm not being introduced to Charlie Sexton all over again. . .

. . . And who is *this* inching his way round the door, skew-wiff haircut and probing microphone at the ready? Could it be? Oh NO, it IS! It's Steve Blacknell. . . I'm off. . .

● Schoolboy and superstar Aled Jones and his grandad, Tarquin. Oh. . . it's not his grandad, it's. . . someone ELSE!!!

Photo: Jo Devon

Mutterings

Oo! *Ooow!* Pass the *Setlers* (as in "*Setlers* bring express relief"), shipmates, and make it snappy 'cos *Mutterings* is feeling very "off" "colour" indeed after being eaten up by one of **UB40** a fortnight back. Oh, well, nothing like a good bit of disgusting pop gossip to "settle" the stomach is there? Like, did you know that **Paul Webb** from **Talk Talk** goes on tour with just three shirts in a plastic bag? "They get better with age," he splutters. . . Or, even *more* disgusting, that rock "giants" **Led Zeppelin** are reforming and are rumoured to be rehearsing in a bath. Good job too. Oh. . . apparently that bit should read: they're rehearsing in *Bath*. How "droll". . .Or, *completely* spurglusting, that **Samantha Fox** is about to release a record called "Touch Me"? Too horrible to even think about so let's move swiftly on to something nice like **Howard Jones,** shall we? Howard is going to Ireland soon to start recording his new LP with trendy-but-very-old-producer **Arif Mardin** who produced the new **Culture Club** single. And, peculiarly enough, what is *this* that has just landed on *Mutterings* lap but a copy of that very single "Move Away"? It's too late to ask **Dave Gahan** what he thinks of it so *Mutterings* (who has always secretly wanted to "do" the singles) can pronounce that it's. . .quite good. "A fairly hummable soulful pop disc which is, not suprisingly, several million times better than most of "Waking Up With The House On Fire" we say. . ."Meanwhile", **Boy George** and **Marilyn** have been cavorting round the gents' loo of New York's Limelight club with an American senator. "He wouldn't leave Marilyn alone," tutted George. "We went to the toilets and he even followed us there. So we went into a cubicle together and. . ." Enough! Spare us the sordid details! Be off with you, oh low life denizen! This is a *wholesome* magazine full of untarnished popsters like **Michael Jackson**. Hurray! Michael's just started his new LP with the equally, er, normal **Quincy Jones** who explains "we'll be trying on some fabrics – thinking of the music first in colour, shapes and densities. Then we'll go with what we feel and. . ." Enough! Spare us the grisly minutiae, oh madcap of the mixing desk! You're almost as bad as that tiny piper of yours, M.Jackson, who, we hear, has been causing a bit of a rumpus by getting in a bit of a tiz at the suggestion that "We Are The World" should be replaced as the official USA For Africa song by "Hands Across America" by two nobodies who probably can't even *spell* llama. And *here's* a coincidence! M. Jackson's llama is called Louis, which is almost exactly the same as the middle name of – grunt! – **Madonna,** who has just done her first interview for yonks chatting to actor Harry Dean Stanton. She explains how when she was 4 she always wanted to sleep with her parents, or "the A team" as she calls 'em. Her father never wanted the little minx in bed but she got in anyway and "rubbed against my mother's gown and went to sleep just like that. To me that was heaven, to sleep between my parents. I felt really lonely and forlorn, you see. . ." Blimey! And here she is chatting about her wild adolescence: "I used to be just a brazen, outgoing, crazy lass. I would wear one orange sock and one purple one." Crikey! *This* is the stuff! The crazy lass goes on to spill the beans about her, ahem, classical tastes, her fondness for Picasso, Shakespeare, James Joyce, Henry James and Ernest Hemingway, and, naturellement, her deep *lurve* for **Sean Penn**: "Sean is my hero and my best friend," she gushes, and reveals how Sean "popped the question" – "We were in Tennessee at the 'Something Inn'. It was a Sunday morning and I was jumping up and down on the bed, performing one of my morning rituals and all of a sudden he got this look in his eye and I felt like I knew what he was thinking. I said 'Whatever you're thinking I'll say yes to'". That was his chance. So he popped it." Coo-er. Time we think for a weeny "update" on "morning rituals" elsewhere around the global village of pop. **Dave Stewart** is "seeing" Eurythmics backing singer Claire Evans, **Annie Lennox** (who says she'll never make another film after the critical panning the useless *Revolution* has received) has been "holding hands" with US person Billy Paveda who danced on the "Would I Lie To You?" video, **Steve Dagger**, **Spandau Ballet's** "sixth member" and manager, is "good friends" with "singer" Patsy Kensit, **Simon "ie" Bon**, who has finally left New Zealand on *Drum*, is keeping in touch with Yasmin by radio telephone, **David Sylvian**, who has – gasp! – stopped wearing make-up, has a Japanese girlfriend called Yuka Fujii, and **Elvis Costello**, who has changed his name back to Declan Patrick McManus and added an 'Aloysius' somewhere in between (from the dead comedian Tony Hancock's middle name) is living with Caitlin O'Riordan, bass player of **The Pogues**. She calls him "Uncle Brian", *he* calls *her* "The Bulgarian Ambassador"!!? *Very* strange all this moonin'n'spoonin', ain't it? But it all melts into nothingness alongside the news that **Gary Numan** (the bloke with the "steely voice" who has been making the same record for several decades) is living with "sexy vicar's daughter" Tracey Adams (the "chick" who was on the sleeve of his memorable single, "Miracle"). The pair have been discussing "babies' names" while her father claims that Gary and him have "long theological discussions". . .*Very* likely!. . . "Meanwhile", **Kirsty MacColl** has her second sprog on the way! Hurrah! and **Genesis** have a new album out soon! *Snoooooper*! and **The Faces** (a v. dodgy old group from 400 years ago) are reforming! Curses!! **Rod Stewart**, Rolling Stone **Ronnie Wood**, **Kenney Jones** and **Ian MacLagen** will be joined on bass by – *crokey*! it *can't* be! – **John Taylor**! Who apparently used to be *a fan*!?! But it's only for a concert or two, thank heavens!. . . Is it true **George Michael** is making a record with **Nana Mouskouri** as a heartfelt tribute to their common Greek heritage? No. . .Is it true that George Michael is writing the theme to the new British soap opera, *The Legacy*? Apparently. . . Is it true that George Michael snubbed Norman "Dracula" Tebbit at the BPI Awards and "*may*" be declaring his support later this year for CND (the Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament)? Indeed . . . Whatever next? **Rochelle** once had a parakeet that talked but it died. . .**Elton John** reckons the BPI Awards were "a joke". "I'll never go again," he fumed before going off with his wife for ten days tennis in Miami. "It's a load of rubbish." Perhaps he's not completely off his rocker *after* all so let's put on the funny **Madonna** interview picture disc from page 17: "My new dress is vulnerable and innocent and impudent and sexy!", she chirps, so let's take it *off* again. She's gorn squiffy, we reckon. Why, it's even "suggested" that when she'n'Sean walked down the aisle, the wedding music was "Moments In Love" by the **Art Of Noise**!! Rid*i*culous!!!!Let's have a bit of order here! Send for the toff i.e. Sir **Billy Idol**. Tell us, oh wise one, why is your new LP taking so "long" to complete? "The difficulty I'm finding," he admits, "is getting songs to be confessions without sounding like. . .*slop*. There's a huge difference between being honest and some kind of wimp." And with that cosmic verity from the King of the Toffs we leave you for another fortnight. Oh no we *don't*, 'cos here's . . . you guessed it . . . **Madonna**!! "I don't care what anyone says," she pouts, "there *is* something valid and artistic about a Lionel Richie song!" The woman has quite clearly gone utterly stark, staring *bonkers*, so let's sneak away and leave her to it. . .

When A-ha lived in a run-down flat in London before they were successful they were *so* poor that they could only afford one light bulb. If one of them wanted to go to the loo he had to take the bulb with him. . .

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